



INDUSTRIAL WORKER

★ Education
MAY 1992

★ Organization

Vol 89 No 1547

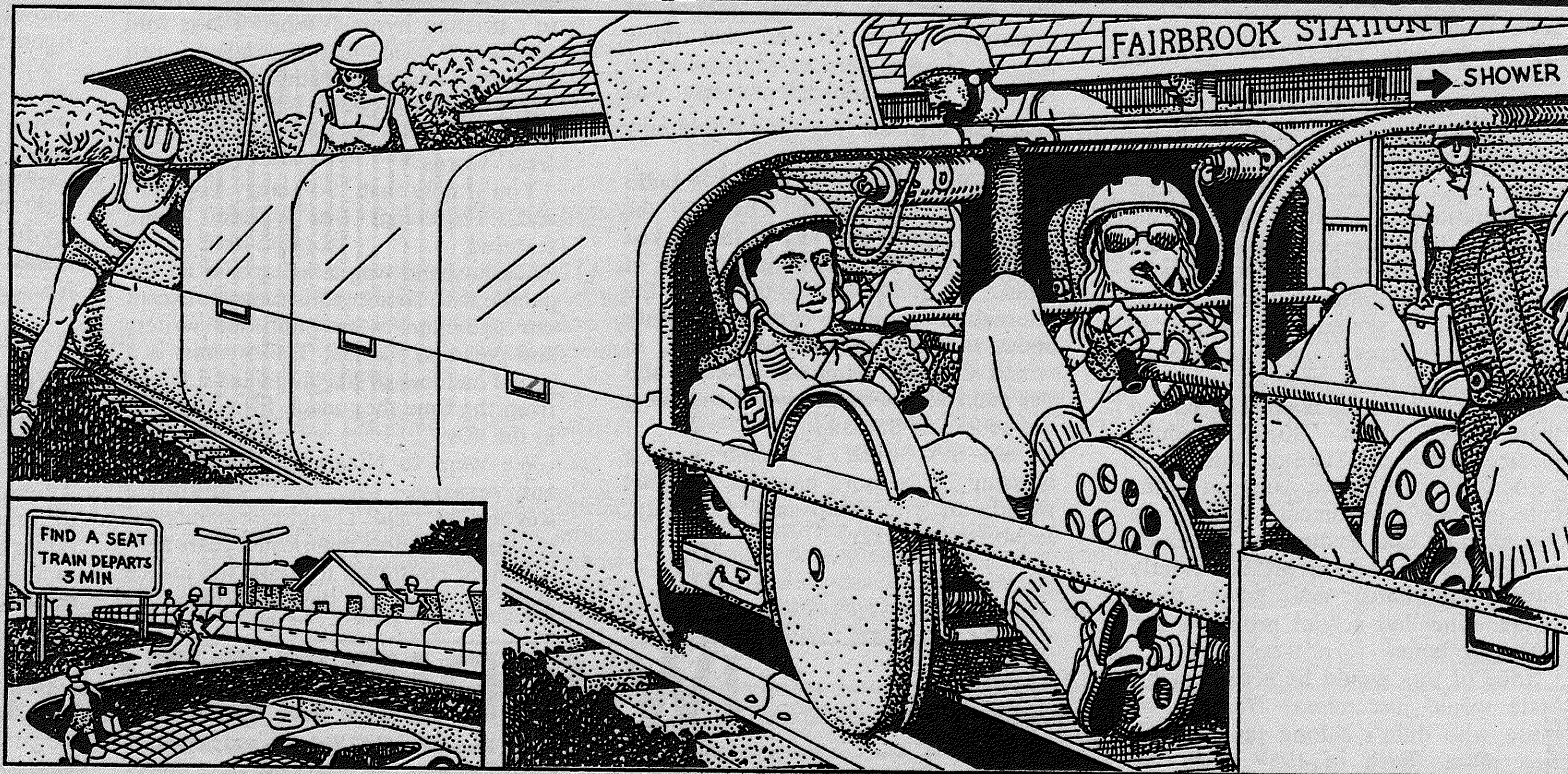
★ Emancipation
50 Cents

Transportation of the Future?

Illustration from
PUBLIC THERAPY BUSES
by Steven M. Johnson.

The Futurist Bookstore
7910 Woodmont Ave. #450
Bethesda MD 20814.

(Coming Soon to *Industrial
Worker: Offices of the Future*)



PEDAL TRAIN by Stephen M. Johnson

Berkeley: IWW Recyclers support 10-year Ecology Center Contract

15 members of California's oldest IWW Job Branch, the Berkeley City Curbside Recyclers (IU 670), are fighting unsafe equipment, eroding earnings, and possible layoffs. Berkeley City Council continues to delay approval of a 10-year contract for curbside recycling.

The Ecology Center, founder of the curbside recycling program and the employer, hammered out a contract with City Public Works Staff to bring the nation's oldest curbside recycling program into the 21st century. The contract includes pickup of mixed paper, cardboard and magazines, materials which comprise up to 35% of what Berkeley discards each day.

The 10-year span of the contract would allow financing of equipment such as new forklifts and ergonomically designed Lodal trucks, which would make the recyclers' jobs much less dangerous.

The Ecology Center and its employees aren't the only parties that would benefit from the contract. The City of Berkeley would get certain performance guarantees, which a for-profit recycler would be unlikely to match. A 15% overhead would fund a Recycling Hotline, 2 Farmers Markets, and an environmental info center.

Some Councillors have questioned this 15% fund, but they should ask whether it would be better for the taxpayers to fund payment of environmental fines levied against Waste Management Inc. (WMI) or Browning Ferris Industries (BFI), the waste handling conglomerates most likely to gain Berkeley's contract if the Ecology Center is squeezed out.

WMI and BFI are the most heavily fined businesses in US environmental history. Both companies have been implicated in illegal toxic dumping, price fixing, and other misdeeds. BFI recycled toxic nitrobenzene by spraying

it as road oil in Texas; WMI knowingly sold PCB-laced home heating oil in Ohio. Both corporations have been aggressively swallowing up small non-profit and locally owned recycling businesses, cutting service and eliminating environmental education, while diverting recyclables on various occasions to their landfills and incinerators.

It remains to be seen whether Berkeley City Council will decide that their historic concern for the environment and human rights in other countries actually applies within Berkeley City Limits.

Even if the Ecology Center contract is finally accepted, the delay is being felt

by the workers who need new equipment such as trucks with lower bins, which are much easier to load. Some of the trucks currently in use are a decade past their useful life, and are hazardous to pilot through Berkeley's winding streets.

Recyclers are forced to lift bales of newspaper and heavy bottles far over their heads to get them into the bins. Taller cabs on the old trucks make it hard to jump in and out for loading. Some recyclers have suffered irreparable leg, back, and internal injuries, with at least one person permanently disabled.

Delay in replacing this equipment makes it likely that tragic accidents, so far fortunately avoided, will become a day to day reality for the fellow workers of IU 670. -WILDCAT

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UC Berkeley: IWW Campus Recyclers Seek Distinct Bargaining Unit

The recyclers at UC Berkeley, Industrial Union 620 Branch, are building the groundwork for their drive for recognition and a contract with Associated Students or ASUC, the student government at UC Berkeley.

The recyclers currently make only \$5.42 an hour, have not had a raise in 3 years, receive no benefits, and they are fighting to keep their collective structure.

ASUC has responded to the Recycler's demand for union recognition, by stating that they cannot be recognized because the recyclers are seeking a separate bargaining unit from other ASUC employees. ASUC, through its lawyer, urged the recyclers to contact an unofficial employer's group for help.

The recyclers have the right to official representation. Also they are distinct

from other ASUC employees and are entitled to separate bargaining unit status.

Although the recognition and contract is sought from Associated Students, the University Administration also plays a role. It consistently underfunds the project, refuses to maintain the recyclers' collection site which it owns, and is considering policy changes that make the future very uncertain.

The recyclers have their work cut out for them and are building the foundation for their organizing drive. They are drafting literature, internal education, organizing classroom presentation to gather support from the students, talking with Associated Students senators, other campus unions, and media.

The upcoming weeks should be very exciting ones for the recyclers. Their success is important for the IWW and for the recycling industry both on campuses and off. -WILDCAT

**By organizing for improved conditions & public
education, IWW Recyclers are making the Industry
more Viable--and Valuable--for the Long Term.**

Industrial Worker
1095 Market St. #204
San Francisco, CA 94103
ISSN 0019-8870

Second Class Postage
PAID
at
San Francisco, CA 94188

Letters

IWW:

The article, "Cars, Class & War" in the March issue was great. I'm going to photo-copy p. 8 and hand copies out!

How about running a few articles - practical, yet visionary - about what life will be like after capitalism? I think we all need a dose of optimism, to help keep our batteries charged in the ongoing struggle...

Thanks for a great paper. Keep building revolutionary class consciousness!

Yours,
Dave Zonk

Dear Wobbs:

Peace be with you. I trust that this letter is finding you all well and enjoying the best life has to offer. I write to inform fellow workers, as we are all in the same boat.

The state of Ohio policy of mass incarcerations is catching up with the citizens, but the citizens are not catching on. There are massive cuts in "state aid to education," medic-aid and welfare. The government wants to increase state taxes at the same time, so they can build more prisons.

Ohio already has 26 main prisons, and there are about 36,000 adults incarcerated in the State of Ohio.

Local school districts, damaged by the cuts in State government support, are forced to go to the voters for increased property taxes, which hit the elderly particularly hard, and when these referendums fail school programs are cut to the bone.

None of this would be needed if the State would just release from prison those who didn't belong there in the first place. Back in 1987 when the USSC was considering the constitutionality of Ohio's self-defense law, the former governor wrote to the courts: that the state economy can't provide jobs for all those who would be released, if that unfair law were declared unconstitutional.

Inadvertently, the governor admitted two things. One, prisons do not rehabilitate. The so-called education programs we have in prison are a subterfuge to get more of the taxpayers' money.

Two, the ex-governor admitted that the state has been using prisons as an answer to the high unemployment problem - a problem created by the state.

Most of us in here for defending ourselves were working before our incarceration. As more people are taken from jobs and put into prison, more unemployed farmers can be hired as guards; and our former employers have to hire someone else to replace us. This is the state's solution to unemployment.

The arrogant governor also conceded that prisons are a huge school of criminology. He claimed that those formerly honest citizens who would be released if the self-defense law was changed, after serving time would now be criminals upon release.

As I was listening to this on a radio report, the gulagcrats changed the channel. I never saw any of this picked up by any of the major newspapers of Ohio. So it is up to those in the alternative media to expose the truth about the criminal justice system, in which the real criminals in suits and ties make all the money while enslaving the people of the land.

Until next time, I remain with a blessing for a more peaceful and just world. In friendship and solidarity, Jacob Feuerwerker.

FAREWELL FELLOW WORKER

Dwight V. Swain

November 17, 1915 - February 24, 1992

To Industrial Workers of the World:

I received your notice of renewal after my husband, Dwight V. Swain, died. He had been active in the movement in the late 30s and early 40s. He never forgot the ideals.

I thought you might be interested in his funeral service. While people were gathering, the organist played a medley of Wobbly and Woody Guthrie songs, ending with "Old Man River" and "This Old House". My husband always said that you could tell the Wobblies came from good Christian families because so many of their songs were set to Christian hymns. When I was told this music was inappropriate, I just said, "No one will be singing the songs. Just look at the people. Those who are grinning will be the ones who know the 'real' words."

You'll note that "Solidarity Forever" and "Hallelujah I'm a Bum" were featured.

My husband was a writer and all the people who spoke at his funeral, except our daughter, were published writers and personal friends. The organist is a proud member of his union and a friend from the time they made films together in the 40s.

We were in Nicaragua for the first anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution, and Dwight remembered reading Sandino's manifestos years ago.

Dwight continues to work for justice and fairness in the workplace. I



remember a group of young women gathered for the International Women's Year in Mexico City. They threw Dwight out of their meeting, never knowing that he had worked for their rights before they were born.

When we were first married he took me to show me the sites of the major strikes and demonstrations of the movement.

I won't be renewing my subscription right now because I'm not sure what my future will be, but do know that the ideals live on. - Joyce R. Swain, Norman, Oklahoma

FWs,

Appreciated the internationalist spirit of the April IW. As for the workers being hoodwinked by the "Buy American" crowd, I would agree with the sentiments and logic of x341341; I'd rather buy a car made by union workers in Italy, than a scab-plagued outfit in the US. -x334260

IWW DIRECTORY

For those unfamiliar with IWW terminology, we offer these definitions: Job Shop—an IWW-organized group of workers at a particular workplace—either worker-owned, or owned by the bosses. GMB—General Membership Branch, a chartered branch of members linked by locale, rather than workplace. IWW Group—a group of IWW members in the same locale, not large enough to be a GMB. I.U.—Industrial Union, the IWW number assigned to a particular industry. Delegate—an IWW member authorized to collect dues and to sign up new members.

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area IWW Group—Delegate: Ray Elbourne, Cnr Dittons Lane and Old Illawarra Hwy, Sutton Forest 2577, (048) 682883

Jura Books—110 Chrystal St. Petersham, Sydney

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver Group—110-511 Gatensbury St., Coquitlam, V3J 5E7, (604) 936-1927. John Barker, contact.

Eastside Datagraphics Job Shop (I.U. 450)—1460 Commercial Drive, Vancouver V5L 3X9, (604) 255-9559.

SE British Columbia IWW Group—P.O. Box 54, Balfour, V0G 1C0. Contact: David Everest (604) 229-4978.

MANITOBA

Winnipeg IWW Group—B. Mackay, P.O. Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7.

ONTARIO

Kingston IWW Group—472 Albert Street, K7L 3W3, (613) 544-2382. Delegate: Brad Waugh (613) 549-6094.

Ottawa IWW Group—388 1/2 Kent Street, K2P 2A9, (613) 231-2922.

Toronto Group—11 Andrews Avenue, M6J 1S2, (416) 941-9945. Meetings first Thursday, 7 pm, each month, phone for location.

Blackbird Design Collective Job Shop (I.U. 450)—394 Euclid Ave., Suite 301, Toronto M6G 2S9, (416) 972-6293.

UNITED KINGDOM

IWW Delegate—D. Czunys, 13 Wolsley, York, YO1 5BQ.

IWW Delegate—F. Lee, 22 Vicarage Lane, Belgrave, Leicester, LE4 5 PD, Phone: 0533-661835

UNITED STATES

ARKANSAS

IWW Delegate—P.O. Box 1403, Conway 72032.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles contact—Dorice McDaniels, (310) 679-2570.

IWW Local 1/Mendocino/Humboldt GMB—Delegates: Judi Bari, PO Box 656, Willits, 95490 (message phone: 707/468-1660). Melissa Roberts, PO Box 381, Willits CA 95490—0381. Herb Jager, 114 E. Laurel, Ft. Bragg 95437, (707) 937-3457.

Riverside Group—Delegate: Kathy Light (714) 369-9799.

San Diego IWW—RMR Kroopkin, 2675 Fletcher Parkway #211, El Cajon 92020, (619) 460-2907.

San Francisco Bay Area GMB—1095 Market St., #204, 94103 (415) 863-WOBS.

Berkeley Recycling Center Job Shop (I.U. 670)—M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607.

ASUC Recyclers at UC Berkeley, 620 Eshleman, 94720. Delegates: Kiri Soares and Karen Burnes (510) 642-4895.

New Earth Press Job Shop (I.U. 450)—1640 Addison, Berkeley, 94702. Delegate: Dave Karoly (510) 658-5377

Typesetting Etc. Job Shop (I.U. 450)—1095 Market St. #210, SF CA 94103 (415) 626-2160.

COLORADO

Denver/Boulder GMB—2412 E. Colfax, Denver 80206, (303) 388-1065. Office open Saturdays 9-12. Meetings, second Friday each month, 7 p.m. Delegates: Cliff Sundstrom, 910 E. 8th Ave. #202, Denver 80218. (313) 832-7602. Dave Frazer, Box 6, Rollinsville 80474. (303) 258-3732. P&L Printing Job Shop (I.U. 450), 2298 Clay, Denver 80211, (303) 433-1852.

FLORIDA

J. Lewis, Delegate, 345 Ocean Dr. #1103, Miami Beach FL 33139

GEORGIA

Atlanta IWW Group—340 Elmira Place, 30307. (404) 524-1243.

HAWAII

Honolulu Area IWW Group (808) 732-7027 Delegate: D. Goldsmith

IDAHO

Boise IWW Group—Delegate: W. Cohan, 2701 N. 29th St., 83703, (208) 343-1699.

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB—(New World Resource Center) 1476 W. Irving Park, 60613 (312) 549-5045. Meetings, first Friday 7:30 pm.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans Area IWW Group—R. McCarthy, P.O. Box 15734, 70175-5734, (504) 899-0014.

MAINE

Lewiston IWW Group—Contact: M. Lunt (207) 786-6273.

MARYLAND

Baltimore Area GMB—R. Bey, Black Shield, Box 1681, Glen Burnie 21060, (301) 367-3024.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston GMB—23 Gorham #3, Somerville, MA 02144, (617) 629-2922. Meetings, second Sun. 2 pm. Delegates: Nora Smith, Dani Mavronicles.

MICHIGAN

SE Michigan GMB—Albert Parsons (313) 769-0695 and Michael Kozura, 7252 Kendal, Dearborn, MI 48126, (313) 581-2065.

Ann Arbor Tenants' Union Job Shop (I.U. 670)—4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109, (313) 763-6876. Delegate: Jeff Gearhart (313) 994-5477.

People's Warehouse Branch (I.U. 660)—727 W. Ellsworth, Ann Arbor 48108, (313) 769-8629. Delegates: Carol Landry, Mark Kaufmann (313) 483-3478.

N. Michigan—John Patterson P.O. Box 245, Conway 49722-0245.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis / St. Paul IWW Group—Box 2391, Loop Stn., 55402, (612) 339-5002. Delegate: Chris Shillock.

Duluth Area IWW Group—1514 N. 8th Ave. E., Duluth 55805. Delegate: Jack Rosenquist.

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport IWW Group—Contact: C.G. Streuly (601) 896-3515.

MONTANA

IWW Contact: Mark Ross, 111 W. Quartz, Butte, 59701.

NEVADA

Tahoe Area IWW—Larry Steinberg, P.O. Box 1114, Dayton 89403, (702) 246-3120.

NEW YORK

New York GMB: Delegates: Brian Mahoney, 1717 N. Thompson Drive, Bay Shore, NY 11706 (516) 586-2103. Rochelle Semel, RD 1, Box 158-B, Hartwick, 13348 (607) 293-6489.

Socialist Party USA National Office Job Shop (I.U. 670)—516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. (212) 691-0776.

OHIO

SW Ohio IWW Group—D.E. Slaton, Box 26416, Trotwood, 45426, (513) 854-0051.

PENNSYLVANIA

Lehigh Valley GMB—P.O. Box 4133, Bethlehem 18018. Delegates: Lenny Flank Jr. (215) 759-7982, Mike D'Amore (215) 434-0218, Dennis Good (215) 921-2459.

Philadelphia Delegate—Tom Hill, P.O. Box 41928, Philadelphia 19101.

Wooden Shoe Books and Records Job Shop—112 S. 20th Street, Philadelphia 19103, (215) 569-2477.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Harbinger Publications Job Shop (I.U. 450)—Merll Truesdale, 18 Bluff Rd., Columbia 29201, (803) 254-9398.

TEXAS

Austin IWW Group—P.O. Box 49523, 78765 (512) 416-9619.

UTAH

Salt Lake IWW Group—Tony Roehrig, P.O. Box 520514, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0514. (801) 485-1969.

VERMONT

Burlington Contacts—Anne Petermann and Orin Langlelle, P.O. Box 804, Burlington 05402, (802) 658-2403.

WASHINGTON

Bellingham GMB—P.O. Box 1580, 98227

Tacoma/Olympia GMB & GDC Local 4—2115 S. Sheridan Ave., Tacoma 98405, (206) 272-8119.

Seattle IWW Group—P.O. Box 95688, 98145-2686, (206) 525-1336. Delegate: Wayne Taylor. Street of Crocodiles Letter Press Job Shop—P.O. Box 20610, Seattle 98102, (206) 726-5924

WISCONSIN

Madison GMB—Box 2605, 53701, (608) 255-1800. Delegates: Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow. Lakeside Press Job Shop (I.U. 450)—1334 Williamson, Madison 53703. (608) 255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow.

North America's Only Radical Labor Newsmagazine INDUSTRIAL WORKER



IW Coordinators May 1992: Pat Blare, Nadia Bliss, Devon Griffiths, Mynor Variante, Bart Williams.

Industrial Worker (ISSN 0019-8870) is the official monthly publication of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), 1095 Market St. #204, San Francisco, CA 94103. Second Class postage paid at San Francisco, California. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Industrial Worker, 1095 Market St. #204, San Francisco, CA 94103. Subscriptions included with dues for all IWW members. Subscriptions for nonmembers are \$10/year. Send subscription orders and donations (US \$ only) to: Industrial Worker, 1095 Market St. #204, San Francisco, CA 94103. Unless designated as official policy, articles do not represent the official position of the IWW. Submissions whose content violates the principles of the IWW Preamble & Constitution will not be printed. No paid or commercial advertising accepted. Deadline for copy: 12th of each month. Submit articles to: IW Co-ordinators, PO Box 2541, Stn D, Ottawa ON, K1P 5W6. For more information call (415) 863-WOBS.

Buy American?

Many unionists down in Freedomland have taken up the familiar refrain "Buy American" in hopes of saving their jobs. But just what does economic nationalism mean in an age of transnational corporations?

The 1992 Ford Crown Victoria is assembled in Canada with parts from America, Japan, Mexico, Britain, Spain and Germany. The Chevrolet Geo Metro is made by Suzuki and Isuzu. Many GM cars have more Japanese parts than some Japanese cars do. The Mazda Navajo, meanwhile, is manufactured by Ford in Kentucky while Toyota Corollas are assembled by a GM-Toyota partnership in California.

Which is more American? A Chrysler Eagle Summit made by Mitsubishi at its Normal, Illinois, plant using 52 percent U.S. parts or a Toyota Camry made in Georgetown, Kentucky, with 74 percent American parts (whatever that means).

Each of the big three owns parts of their foreign "competition"—Ford owns 24 percent of Mazda, GM owns 38 percent of Isuzu, etc.—and each has substantial overseas operations. And the Big Three import parts and raw materials from around the world.

Nor are television manufacturers any more "patriotic." Zenith, an American-based company, manufactures most of its television sets in Mexico and is in the process of moving its final U.S. assembly plant there, while Mitsubishi assembles TV sets in Santa Ana, California. General Electric and RCA assemble most their sets in Indiana, but at a plant owned by a French electronics firm.

Sylvania and Magnavox televisions are assembled in Tennessee by a Dutch

conglomerate. And no matter where the sets are assembled, the parts come from around the world—wherever the bosses got the best deal.

When Greece, New York officials decided to do the patriotic thing and "buy American" the Komatsu Ltd. excavating machine they rejected was assembled in the U.S. while the John Deere tractor they bought used an engine from Japan. Harvard economist Robert Reich notes that "almost any product weighing more than 10 pounds and costing more than \$10 is a global composite, combining parts or services from many different nations."

I could go on endlessly, but the point should be clear. We can't hope to gain anything by supporting "our" bosses against the other guys, whether across the border or across the sea. Free trade or no free trade, the bosses will always go where the money's best, where unions are weak, where they can maim workers and pollute the environment to their heart's content. They won't be stopped by legislation (after all, the much-feared Free Trade Agreement isn't even written yet, but employers have been setting up shop in Mexico for decades), and "American" products, by and large, simply don't exist.

Rather than trying to make common cause with our exploiters against our fellow workers abroad, we would do far better to assist our fellow workers in their struggles to build militant, independent unions and to win better working and living conditions. As long as workers are repressed and poverty stricken, the bosses will find a way to exploit their misery—and to spread that misery, as best they can, to the rest of us.

Guatemalan Workers

Guatemala City is one place where dreams of abusing cheap non-union labor and accumulating sizeable rates of return are realized. Recent information says there are now about 300 factories employing 60,000 workers in the growing Guatemalan apparel-for-export (maquiladora) sector. Low wages, and a government keen on maintaining repressed working conditions contribute to this growth.

Guatemala City is also the site of dreams of worker solidarity. The Phillips-Van Heusen company (PVH), leading marketer of men's shirts in the US, owns 2 factories in Guatemala City. In March 1991, workers at one plant filed an application for union recognition. But by mid-January 1992, PVH had broken this first union drive, using tactics of threats, intimidation, bribery, and firings, as well as improving some of the work conditions. On January 15, 1992 a second application was filed by workers at the second PVH factory.

PVH officials then sent a letter to the workers announcing that no union drive existed. The new union supporters responded with a letter of their own, assuring everyone that "the union in formation will continue to function and will remain attentive to the interests of the workers." The new union's demands include recognition and negotiation, wage increases and safety equipment, medical care, and transportation to and from work.

Since December 1991, support for the PVH workers' struggle has grown in the US. Many labor, religious and solidarity groups have organized leafleting events, passed resolutions of support and sent letters to PVH.

January 25, the first leafleting was organized by LV Wobs in Reading. PVH headquarters in Manhattan was leafleted February 27 by US/Guatemala Education Project, and Fair Trade Campaign members. February 29, six sites in New Jersey and one site in Pembroke Massachusetts, members of NJ Labor Committee on Central America, and the Guatemala committee of CASA and A La Vida, picketed PVH outlets.

PVH has adopted a 2-prong strategy. In Guatemala, PVH hopes to bust the

union drive with pay-offs, threats, intimidation and minor improvement of working conditions. In the US, PVH tries to persuade the public that it is a model employer. All the more reason why we must intensify our activism to remind PVH that a minimal definition of "a model employer" includes respect for the basic right of workers to form their own union.

For info on the PVH union drive and how you can support it, contact Lehigh Valley IWW. -Fara Farbod



Maquiladora Horror

Ingrid Peritz
Montreal Gazette
(adapted)

In the crowded industrial sectors near the US-Mexican border known as "maquiladoras," 20,000 workers work long hours at heavy industrial labor to earn a few pennies for bread. They are hired as young as 10 years old, and the average age of the maquiladora workforce is 17 years.

In all, an estimated 5 to 11 million children are laborers in Mexico. The prospect of starving on the street drives children to slave under brutal sweatshop conditions in the no-union capitalist's paradise.



16-year old victim:
lost fingers & hopes

A maquila is a foreign-owned plant that operates basically duty-free. There are an estimated 1,800 maquilas currently in operation in Mexico. With the current N. American (un)Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the works, the number of factories is rapidly growing.

Supporters of free trade say investment brings opportunities to the Mexican working class, and as jobs improve the standard of living, working conditions will also gradually get better.

60 hours a week, for a paycheck of about \$30, the children forego education and risk health and safety to help feed their families. In Leon, the shoemaking center of Mexico, children under five feet tall yank tacks, spread glue, sharpen blades and operate stitching machines in dark dusty workshops, their faces coated with soot and grime. In one shop, the oldest worker was 23. Here in the windowless shops, many become addicted to the glue fumes and solvents.

"I'd like to go into electronics but I think the best work is here," said a 15-year old lathe operator in his third year at the shoe factory.

The mother of a 13-year old worker said this: "I would like my children to keep studying and have a career. But in the economy we live in, we just can't do it."

A 16-year old girl who had plans to become a secretary, had her two fingers cut off in a sole cutting machine, ruining her dreams. Juana was working for \$5.70 a day, hoping to save for her education. The boss told Juana to operate a machine called "the guillotine," but she was given no training. She told the boss she didn't want to operate the heavy machine, but he told her to do it or else she would be fired. Her second day on the machine, the heavy steel blades came down and chopped off her fingers.

"Now Juana feels ashamed about her hand and envies her friends," her mother said. "They (her friends) have also become afraid of their factory jobs." Asked who was responsible for the maiming, Juana's mother replied, "Me... But I think the boss is, too. That machine was very dangerous and she didn't know how to use it."

The young girl's employer refused to pay a cent for medical costs, not even painkillers.

The human face of Free Trade is the despair of American and Canadian workers whose jobs and self-sufficiency are gone forever. It is also the bitter face of a Mexican child maimed for life by brutal heavy labor in the maquiladoras of international capital.

QUOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

'Free Trade isn't just about trade. It is about giving big businesses unlimited freedom to move their capital anywhere at anytime, without regard for the communities they ruin in the process.' - THE MOMENT (Toronto)

'If you look beyond the very limited clauses which actually deal with trade, and look at things like investment codes, which grant "national treatment" status to transnational corporations, then you can see that ... National sovereignty is replaced by the marketplace, which is controlled by transnational corporations.' - John Dillon, Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice (Toronto).

'Guatemala is being converted into a "maquiladora paradise". In that country, the cheap labour comes from a population which is living under state-sponsored terror and who wouldn't even receive a daily wage of 40 cents. The vast majority of these underpaid workers are, of course, women.' - Gerardo Timossi, Centre for Social and Economic Research (Nicaragua).

International Notes

Transport Workers of the World On Strike!

KENYA

Public transportation workers taking part in a 2-day general strike paralyzed the capital city of Nairobi. The strike was called by the major opposition party Forum for the Restoration of Democracy, to force the government to release political prisoners. Commercial activity in Nairobi was shut down. Workers who made it to work were mainly government or para-state employees who were threatened with being fired if they did not show up. Violence was reported in Nairobi as strikers and police clashed throughout the city.

JAPAN Rail Workers

Japanese rail unions conducted the first strikes since the 1987 break up and privatization of Japanese National Railways. Wage increases of 5 to 5.6 per cent were included in contracts. Workers at two unions remain dissatisfied with management's unfair labor practices and extended a planned 48-hour strike into a third day.

The power of railworkers to disrupt large cities was obvious as commuters jammed the roads with cars and millions were inconvenienced. Imagine the power of a strike on the job by public transit workers. Say free fares and massive distribution of information about wages and striking to passengers.

ZAMBIA Rail Workers

5,000 railway workers shut down the government-run rails isolating the strategic Copperbelt province and causing bosses to complain of huge "losses." Workers demanded a 300 per cent wage increase in response to worsening conditions -- cuts in food subsidies and devaluation of the Kwacha currency.

PHILIPPINES Air Traffic Controllers

The Philippine Air Traffic Controllers Association staged a wildcat strike April 3, shutting down Manila's Aquino International Airport. The 317-member union says member Elmer Tadle is "asking the government to allow us to privatize and manage ourselves under our own cooperative."

The government says it cannot afford wage increases for the air controllers and is studying privatization. Government spokespeople were also stirring up hatred against the strikers.

AUSTRALIA Rail Workers

NSW rail industry unions are fighting a State Rail Authority decision to charge a 2.5% commission on payroll deductions for a range of services including hospital cover. Union representatives say employers made big savings with the introduction of payment of wages into bank accounts instead of cash payment, and are now after even more.

Health Care Workers

NSW nurses are angry over the Greiner government's plans to reorganise the Macquarie and Gladesville hospitals, with the loss of around 100 specialist psychiatric beds. The nurses association says psychiatric facilities are already inadequate.

Amalgamation

About 24,000 workers here began voting on March 17 on the proposed amalgamation of the Federated Miscellaneous Workers and the Liquor and Allied Trades unions. The new body would have 130,000 members nationally, and would be called the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union.

RUSSIA

RIGA TRANSPORT WORKERS THREATEN GENERAL STRIKE:

Bus drivers held a 4-hour warning strike February 13, demanding higher wages, employment guarantees, and organization of a union that excludes management representatives. Tram drivers announced their support of the bus-drivers, and put forth their own demands for increased wages. Taxi-drivers also threaten to strike because they are threatened by mass unemployment due to the lack of oil in the Republic and privatization. Taxi-drivers insist they must have preference in buying their cars. A compromise was reached on February 28. The Government promised to add 160 million rubles this year for bus transportation and 170 million on electric transport. The transport workers will get money obtained by price rises of alcohol. A free tariff was introduced and unprofitable routes abolished.

WORKERS DEMAND COLLECTIVIZATION:

A. Chubais, chairman of the Russian State Property Committee, and P. Filipov, of the Russian Supreme Soviet Committee on Privatization, met members of the republican coordinating council of the Union of Workplace Collectives and a number of unions on February 7. The government agreed to the meeting only after St. Petersburg dockers, aviation workers, and others threatened to strike. Problems created for the rights of workplace collectives by the privatization of state property were discussed.

Workplace collectives are demanding that their interests be taken into account as the government privatizes state industries. These suggestions provide for: bigger funds and percentages of shares given to workplace collectives free of charge; workers' right to establish the form of ownership at their enterprise; limiting foreign investments; etc. The meeting revealed absolutely different approaches. A. Chubais stated outright that he, as well as a majority in the government, were against any collective ownership of enterprises in any form whatsoever. The Government representatives did not agree with the majority of the workplace collectives' demands.

OMSK WORKERS OCCUPY MARX WORKS:

For two days on February 25 and 26, the workers of the shop N6 at the Karl Marx plant remained at their work places and spent two nights in the shops. Thus they protested against decreasing production and the planned layoff of 1500 workers.

"WILD" PRIVATIZATION: The all-city strike of workers from photo studios began February 1. Their main demand is that workplace collectives be allowed first rights to privatization of their studios, and that private persons who have bought studios be prohibited from changing the character of the studios' work for five years.

Solidarity actions with the strikers were organized in other Lithuanian cities. Workers of other branches of services supported them and in Vilnius they were supported by hair-dressers who also went on strike. In Panevezhis 200 workers of city services organized a picket, announced that photographers of the city had joined the strike and that other services would stop work on February 17 if the Government did not respond. Service workers of Kaunas and Ujtana also joined the strike.

Workers of the city house of services in Shauljay including hair-dressing salons, cleaning shops and other services stopped work and picketed the administrative buildings. They were joined by postmen who demanded to return to the practice of home delivery of pensions and were supported by



FRANCE

pensioners. The photographers' action was probably the first to be supported by practically all communal services. Their strike was not organized by any Trade Union. The photographers were compelled to it by the selling of the first photo studios. It became clear then to everybody that a working collective would never be able to gather the necessary sum of money to buy out their enterprise for collective ownership.

It is quite probable that these actions are the beginning of mass actions against "wild" privatization in the Republic, for this wave has gone beyond the limits of one enterprise, one city and one Trade Union. In the capital, 4000 communal services workers on February 12 picketed the Parliament building. They protested against their inability to participate in the privatization of their studios and shops.

The government promised to negotiate, to lower the minimum size of property to be auctioned, and to stop privatization of communal services for a while. Another result is that people are not afraid now that their actions will be labelled as the "schemes of the reds".

The communal services workers proposed: giving workplace collectives the right to buy those enterprises the cost of which does not exceed 200,000 rubles; workers of other enterprises should be given the right to buy an unlimited number of shares; if the new owners break the Law on Privatization they must be denied their property; to ensure control over privatization through a three-sided commission consisting of deputies, workers and businessmen; the character of such enterprises should not be changed for 5 years. Negotiations were held February 27, and the Government promised to allot not less than 51% of shares to the workplace collectives and meet their other demands. The strikers agreed that privatized enterprises should not be resold during a 10 year period.

BELARUS: "ITALIAN" STRIKE:

The Independent Miners' Union of Belarus called a strike February 11, after negotiations with the Government on a general tariff agreement reached a deadlock. This became inevitable when the Council of Ministers sent people without any authority to the negotiations. The union called for an "Italian" strike, but the strike committees of two mines stopped work fully. Miners from Donbas (the Ukraine), Vorkuta (Russia) and Karaganda (Kazakhstan) expressed their support of the Belorussian miners and warned that they may stop loading coal to Belarus. That same evening the Council of Ministers offered to resume negotiations allegedly "interrupted by the miners' fault." The Independent Miners' Trade Union resumed negotiations February 14 and stopped

February was filled with protests of job layoffs by various unions and by protests against cuts to education.

Usinor-Sacilor, the world's 2nd largest steel producer, announced the layoff of 8,000. Lorraine steel workers held a huge rally at Metz on Feb 6.

Postal workers at Lille struck in defense of jobs, holding up the mail for 15 days. Ferry workers are in a dispute over the firing of 110. Feb 8 and 9, dock workers held their 16th strike against government re-structure plans.

PAY TO STRIKE: French courts have ordered the dockworkers union to pay 800,000 francs for lost income resulting from a 2-day strike held December 9-10 to protest impending layoffs. February saw several strikes by French workers against layoffs, including a strike against the Alcatel communications firm February 3rd, an 18-day strike by Lille postal workers, and another two-day strike by dockworkers.

Feb 4, technical colleges staff struck with the support of parents, teachers and students. They want better conditions for education workers, while the government plans to close some colleges. The National Union of Teachers is doing a program of petitions and meetings against the cut of 1,231 jobs in nursery and primary schools. Feb 9, 10,000 demonstrated at Quimper (Brittany) for more investment in education. Feb 18, students demonstrated against education reforms that would direct students toward certain professions only, and discriminate against others. Certain student unions of the far right (UNI) are supporting contracts to be signed between universities and corporations.

As of February, 280 persons were on hunger strike demanding refugee asylum in France. In February there were 51,714 persons in French prisons, and of these 21,474 were awaiting trial. (A--Infos)

Crown Workers Win in South Africa:

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) and the union-busting Crown Cork and Seal Company agreed April 1 that all 196 union members fired last September for protesting violence would be rehired. The Machinists and Steelworkers unions, which represent Crown workers in the U.S., demanded that the company settle with NUMSA.

The battle against Crown demonstrates the importance of international labor solidarity and bilateral union to union contacts between U.S. workers and their South African counterparts. That solidarity flows both way was demonstrated in late March when NUMSA workers at Caterpillar South Africa struck in solidarity with UAW in their historic struggle against the heavy equipment manufacturer.

KOREA

MAY DAY SOLIDARITY:

Following are excerpts from the KTUC labor federation's international May Day message: "May Day has a special meaning for Korean workers. In 1991, considerable number of workers celebrated May Day by themselves in spite of the government's stubborn hindrance. The government adhered to another anniversary, which had been legislated as a public holiday named 'Employees' Day' in 1963. Korean workers had already celebrated May Day sporadically all over the country since early 1920's, and this had continued under the colony authority's harsh oppression under Japanese rule. May Day was celebrated again after the end of the war. But after the traditional union was dissolved by the government, the only remaining union federation, FKUTU, discarded May Day in 1958. At that time FKUTU's president declared, 'I am willing to replace May Day with the other memorial day in honor of the instruction of President Lee Seung-man.' Lee Seung-man had been the FKUTU's first chairman, though he was far from workers.

"As the Korean union movement has restored its independence since 1987, the campaign to rehabilitate May Day and to wind off the 'Employee's day' which is a symbol of workers' disgrace and subordination has sprung up. Many trade unions have won May Day as a paid holiday since 1989 and are now celebrating it despite the government's ban...

"Our struggle against the government's ban on May Day and for the revival of symbol of workers' struggle and independence must be successful and May Day shall be settled again in Korea. There are, however, people still looking upon May Day as the communists' day as the government says. Korean workers are striving to revive May Day under the severe repression. Your assistance and support will be a great help for us. The KTUC and independent federations plan to hold jointly a rally celebrating May Day on May 2nd. The rally will be a turning point of our campaign for revision of labour laws, which deprive workers of freedom of association, and repeal of the wage curb policy called total pay system.

"If you provide information about your practice and position about May Day, and if you make known widely the situation Korean workers are confronting with, it will be very helpful for us. Also I hope you would protest against Korean government's condemnation of May Day. Korean workers are eagerly looking forward to your solidarity message for May Day in Korea. Would you please let us know of your solidarity actions? Your warm concerns on Korean trade unions will be highly appreciated.

"With best regards, Dan Byung-ho, President, KTUC

Fax: 822-765-5855, E-mail: Geo 2:KRIG"

COLOMBIA Mine Workers

Major improvements in pay and conditions have been won by workers at Colombia's Sintercor mine, owned by US-based Exxon. A new collective agreement signed on 11 March provides for a 29 per cent increase in 1992 and 23 per cent in 1993. New service, efficiency and night shift bonuses will also be paid, and leave provisions and fringe benefits will improve. The unusually quick settlement followed a major international solidarity campaign by the ICEF, the Miners' International Federation (MIF) and US miners' union the UMWA.(ICEF)

CHINA Freedom Call

Leaflets calling for the organisation of independent trade unions are continuing to circulate clandestinely in China, despite strong anti-union repression. Published by the "Preparatory Committee of Free Trade Unions of China," the leaflets refer in detail to the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation, the history of Poland's Solidarnosc union and the freedom of association provisions in China's own constitution. All three references are

likely to cause severe allergies among China's elderly and increasingly paranoid leaders. The official All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) is described in the leaflets as "a feudalistic body of a small minority of scabs who betrayed the interests of the workers." However, persistent reports suggest that even the compliant ACFTU is now in serious trouble with the Chinese communist party. This rift may be to the advantage of independent union organisers. -International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions (ICEF)

South Africans Protest Toxic Waste Importation:

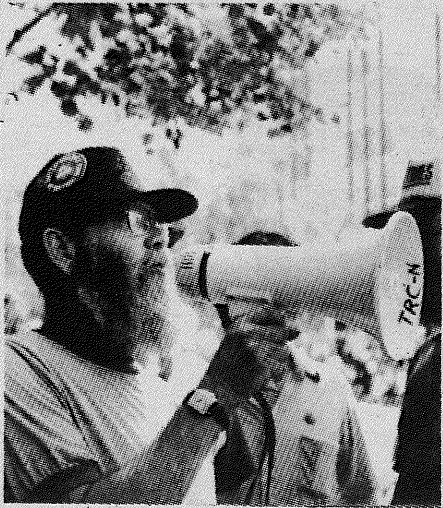
The African National Congress reports that Thor Chemicals has imported mercury wastes with government approval, contaminating workers and local residents. Tests have shown that 87% of the current workforce exceed the World Health Organisation's limits for mercury content in urine, and three workers have died. Mercury effluent contaminated the Umgeni River, used for water and bathing, which had mercury levels hundreds of times above the WHO maximum drinking level. The government has now closed the plant, pending an investigation, but to date has not given affected workers a thorough medical examination.



FAREWELL FELLOW WORKER

Fellow Worker Edward S. Mann, born 1928, passed from Earthly existence on March 23, 1992, of cerebral hemorrhage. Fellow Worker Ed, a Wobbly since 1984, leaves a wife, 3 children and 3 grandchildren, as well as many friends in the labor movement.

Friends say Ed felt most strongly identified with the IWW, though he was



also a member of United Steelworkers of America, Workers Solidarity Club, Peace Council, and American Civil Liberties Union at Youngstown, Ohio. He was vice president of Solidarity USA.

FW Ed helped with the occupation of US Steel buildings in 1979-80, to prevent plant closures; was arrested and beaten for helping picket Trumbull Memorial Hospital in 1982; was active in the Phelps Dodge strike 1985, and travelled to support the Pittston strike.

Farewell Fellow Worker, you've earned a vacation.

FAREWELL FELLOW WORKER

Fellow Worker Bernie Beadling, a member of the San Francisco Bay Branch, passed away recently. Bernie was well-known to Bay area members, and his enthusiasm always perked up a meeting or collating session. His courage in the face of a lifetime of physical difficulties, including childhood polio, has been a real inspiration.

It's ironic that Bernie should pass away this month, for he was heavily involved in producing a May Day benefit concert as a memorial to FW Dick Ellington, who died a year ago on Memorial Day. Bernie will be missed. The union needs more people like FW Beadling.

KTUC PROTESTS ANTI-LABOR GOVERNMENT:

On March 3, the KTUC and 11 other independent labor federations filed a complaint concerning violation of freedom of association with the International Labor Organization. Several international trade secretariats joined with similar protests in behalf of their Korean affiliates. The government-aligned FKUTU federation, however, declined to join the complaint.

The complaint addresses only two provisions among the numerous infringements of trade union rights, namely hierarchical union monopoly and prohibition of the teachers' union. Korean workers also suffer from

anti-union measures including prohibition of support from unions and others not directly involved in disputes, political activities, strikes in defense industries, so-called management prerogatives, and various restrictions on strikes including requirements that unions secure government authorization, strict requirements on union constitution, government rights to investigate union's internal affairs, restrictions on amount of union membership dues, laws giving the government discretion to change union rules and collective agreements, wage guidelines, and so on.

As of Dec.31, 1991, 185 unionists were imprisoned, and 1,500 teachers were dismissed for forming or joining the teachers' union.

cont. on page 12

EDUCATION WORKERS

Since EWIU News & Comments ceased publishing, efforts to organize the Education Workers Industrial Network seem to have stalled somewhat. I would suggest two ideas to get communications among revolutionary education workers moving again. First is organizing an Education Industry column in the Industrial Worker. Over the next few months, I'll send in a few items (news notes, commentary, a book review) with an eye to seeing if this can get off the ground. Other FWs would need to take this on if it is to continue as a long-term project, though.

Some of us have also been discussing the possibility of developing an education workers computer network where we could post organizing notes and proposals, reports on working conditions and labor disputes in our area, appeals for solidarity, discuss the crisis in education, etc. If there is enough interest, our idea is to try to include such a network in the emerging LaborNet operating on the Institute for Global Communications system (but also accessible through Web in Canada, GreenNet in the U.K., and Pegasus in Australia). This network already includes conferences containing U.S. and international labor news, discussion of free trade and organizing issues, a National Writers Union conference, etc. And since PeaceNet and EcoNet operate on the same system, many non-Wobbly education workers are already on the system and might be drawn to our organizing efforts in education.

Your comments on these ideas, or alternative suggestions, are welcome—either in the GOB or IW, or to me via U.S. (Box 1403, Conway AR 72032) or Electronic mail (jbekken on IGC).

EDUCATION WORKERS FIGHT CUT BACKS AROUND THE WORLD:

Polish teachers staged a 1-day warning strike February 28th to demand increased funding for education. The strike, called by the 500,000 member National Teachers Union, affected primary and secondary schools. It was not supported by the rival teachers' union affiliated with the "Solidarity" union/government.

French teacher and student unions called strikes in technical colleges to protest plans to close several colleges as a budget-cutting move. The "socialist" government has proposed education "reforms" aimed at shutting down educational programs that do not feed students into jobs in industry. A series of demonstrations by students and teachers in high schools and colleges have protested these measures. The National Union of Teachers is also organizing against plans to cut 1,231 posts in nursery and primary schools this Fall. Ten thousand people demonstrated in Quimper (Brittany) to demand increased funding and staff for public education.

EDUCATE FOR A CLASSLESS SOCIETY:

According to Kenneth Clarke, British Education Secretary, "we are giving access to degree level courses to people from families who have never contemplated higher education in the past. The classless society is going to be a better educated one."

His optimism is based on the fact that there has been a spectacular rise in student numbers in polytechnics, universities and colleges. Polytechnics have experienced a 16% increase, and universities an 8.7% increase over last year's figures.

As anarcho-syndicalists we would certainly applaud any attempts to increase access to education, especially if that education was of a real kind that equipped people for daily life. However, the increases... reflect no real desire to educate people... apart from fitting some pre-determined position in a society increasingly based on use of skills for its own ends.

Whilst in some departments, lecturers have been faced with a 25% increase in students learning, for example Spanish, there has been no proportional increase in resources, building to accommodate increased numbers, or staff.

Britain is therefore heading rapidly towards a system of "massification" along French or Spanish lines, where students fill corridors as they overflow from classrooms.

At the same time, lecturers are told to accept the changes, respond to "market forces," get into the spirit of increased competition between institutes offering similar courses, and, at the same time, further their research—the rating of which funding is partially dependent upon. What we shall see, then, is increased marketeering, money-grabbing and squabbling between institutions. This will increase the stress on both staff and students, increase the emphasis on creating marketable courses, and result in lower standards and less care and attention to the things that matter to education workers.

Our unions have done little to fight these moves and stop the rot. Occasionally there are movements within the unions to do something positive to halt the decline. But these have rarely involved more than one organization, or address the broader problem.

As syndicalists organized in the Independent Education Network, we believe that the best way forward is creating horizontal links (between rank and file members) in the unions so that the real problems affecting us as workers in education are finally attended to. The advantages of joint organization are clear, but it cannot mean organization for the same old goals of a few touch-up jobs here and there. We must develop an organization whereby we as education producers and consumers can set our own agenda, on our own terms. Only then can we make substantial gains, and only then can we begin to make the necessary links to build an organization that is going to make those changes and sustain them.

by Salford University branch, Independent Education Network. Reprinted from Direct Action #78.

Jamaica Sugar Strike

Jamaican Sugar workers are organized into 3 unions: Bustamante Industrial Union, University and Allied Workers Union, and the National Workers Union. NWU spokesperson Vincent Morrison explained the recent strike action for the readers of *Industrial Worker*.

Sugar is a big industry on the island, directly employing 13,000 union workers at 9 "sugar estates". When the Jamaican currency was devalued recently, plunging from 5 Jamaican dollars per US\$1, to a value of J\$30 per US\$1, the workers suffered a dramatic loss of real wages.

While the ordinary wage-earner took a beating, export business benefited from increased sales to the European Economic Community and the USA. The workers felt they were entitled to a better share of the profits, as the lowest paid workers had been getting only J\$35 or about US\$1 per day.

Cane cutters had formerly received J\$10 per ton, with each worker cutting 4 to 5 tons a day. Their employers, the Sugar Producers Federation (SPF), made up of 60% government and 40% private owners, offered a mere 55% wage increase. This was unacceptable, so in late February the workers went on strike.

Sugar is a seasonal industry, and many workers are small farmers. Thus the nature of the strike did not consist of a lot of workers milling around, as we are used to in city strikes. Rather, meetings were held and then the workers simply disappeared for a while. The strike was well timed to coincide with the harvest.

According to Vincent Morrison of the National Workers Union, the strike was a peaceful shutdown of the entire industry. The unions' main difficulty was in getting the SPF bureaucracy to release financial information. And the *Daily Gleaner* reported that cane already cut was in danger of wasting in the fields, because no notice had been given as in previous strikes. It was also said that some sugar manufacturers saw the strike as helping their goal to force the government to liberalize its foreign exchange policies and allow manufacturers direct access to foreign currencies, as well as to increase the price of sugar.

After 2 weeks of withholding their labor and negotiating, the unions secured a 95% pay raise, from J\$32/day for the lowest paid, to J\$62.50, or slightly above US\$2/day. Cane cutters are now receiving J\$19.50 a ton. Included is a 26% increase for the second year. The workers also receive benefits in the form of clothing allowances and overtime, travel-from-base bonus, life and medical insurance. A production bonus will be shared collectively by the workers when total island production grosses over 225,000 tons. An "escalator" clause will give automatic wage increases if the price of sugar goes up.

Vincent Morrison of the National Workers Union says that his fellow workers are happy with the pay increase, and are now much more motivated; the productivity ratio of tons cane:tons sugar is already the best in ten years.



World Bank

Keeping the Third World Poor

Americans spend \$30 billion a year on Pepsi and Coca-Cola: twice as much as the gross national product of Bangladesh. A Filipino peasant has to work for two years to earn what a New York lawyer makes in one hour. An average middle class family in the Paris suburbs has an income over 100 times higher than a family in rural Southeast Asia. In 1990, the World Bank collected \$1.56 billion more in

payments from developing countries than it gave out in new loans.

Throughout the 1980s, the World Bank and its partner, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forced poverty to new levels. Debtor nations gave up control over their own economies, in order to get loans. Without the loans, the nations would collapse due to inability to make payments on the debts they already owe. The IMF/World Bank bureaucracy in Washington DC now controls the economic life of 80% of the population of the world.

The IMF sends in its "expert managers" to re-organize the governments, forcing them to adopt export schemes that take profits out of the local economy and food out of the mouths of workers, with complete disregard for the environment.

The IMF, World Bank and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) were all created together just after World War II, as part of a grand plan to dominate the world. The formal name of the World Bank is International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

In order to join the World Bank, a country must first join the IMF. 156 nations are members, and Russia has applied. Only Cuba, North Korea, and a few others say they are not interested. The US is the Bank's largest financier and owns the largest voting share; the president of the World Bank is always an American (presently, Lewis Preston; Canada's executive director is Frank Potter). Most of its board meetings are held in the US; a 1988 meeting in Berlin, and a 1991 meeting in Bangkok, attracted massive protests. The World Bank has 22 directors, who report to the finance ministers of a few privileged countries. Their voting records are not made public.

In an attempt to create a "green image," the World Bank set up its Global Environment Facility in 1990. This \$1.1 billion fund has been used to promote tree planting in Kenya, and irrigation in Sri Lanka. But the Bank is also promoting coal generated electricity in Indonesia, and in India a huge dam that will displace hundreds of thousands of people. In Cameroon, which has the last big African rain forest, the Bank is promoting the cattle industry.

The "green" public image campaign showed its true colors in a leaked memo. Lawrence Summers, chief economist at the World Bank, wrote: "The economic logic behind dumping a load of toxic waste in the lowest wage country is impeccable, and we should face up to that...I've always thought that underpopulated countries in Africa are vastly under-polluted."

A growing number of international non-government organizations are demanding the World Bank be closed. Probe International (Toronto) said that operations of the Bank are not legitimate or constructive or fiscally sound, and that "In the end, we can think of no reason to save the World Bank."

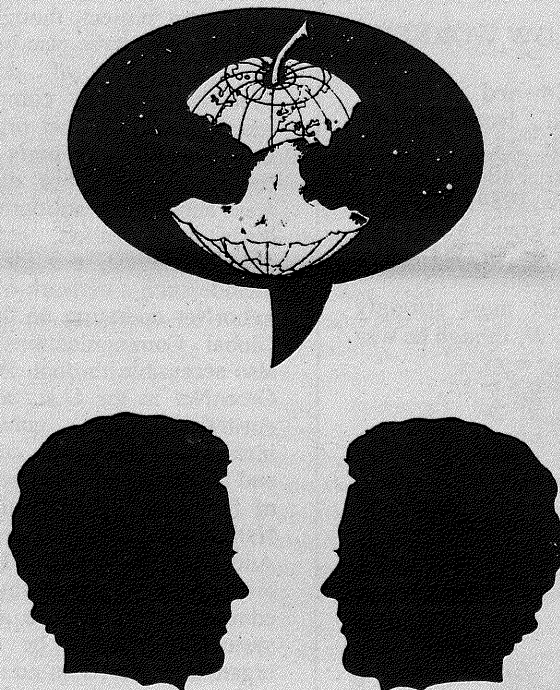
International Solidarity Getting RICH

A broadening international trade union campaign aims to bring fugitive US millionaire Marc Rich to book. Rich, the world's second-biggest commodities dealer has been wanted in the US since 1983 on 65 counts of racketeering, tax fraud, conspiracy and "trading with the enemy," and the US government is offering a \$750,000 reward for his arrest. Not that his whereabouts are unknown. He is now based in the particularly discreet Swiss town of Zug. His business continues through a complicated worldwide network of companies, which ICEF international research has helped to unravel.

One of the firms is the Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation (RAC) in West Virginia. In November 1990, when a collective agreement was about to come up for renewal, RAC locked out 1,700 members of ICEF American affiliate the USWA. They are experienced workers, averaging 24 years' service. RAC hired "permanent replacements" instead - still a legal tactic in the USA, although a bill is before Congress to change this which even if passed will be vetoed by President CIA Bush. Almost a year and a half later, the Ravenswood workers are still locked out. Hence the USWA's intense and abiding interest in Mr. Rich.

The Steelworkers union has broadened its American campaign to other countries, including Switzerland, Britain, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Rumania and Venezuela. These countries either already have commercial and financial links with Rich or are currently the object of his investment plans.

The Public Services International Union has warned its membership in customs and immigration to be on the look-out for Rich at border posts. The ICEF, the International Metalworkers' Federation and national unions have helped set up meetings and demonstrations for the travelling US campaigners. In the US, meanwhile, the unions report increasing success in getting RAC customers, particularly brewers and soft drinks manufacturers, to find other aluminium suppliers for their canning plants. -ICEF



GATT RESTRUCTURE Giving the World to McBusiness

GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was invented in 1947 to help rebuild the world economy after the war. GATT covers about 80% of world trade. GATT was designed to allow countries to protect their own development and social policies while also allowing international trade.

GATT prohibits controls on agricultural import and export, but Article XI allows exceptions. Canada's supply management programs, which consist of produce marketing boards, operate under an exception which allows a country to use import controls as part of a domestic farm program. The US import-quota system operates under a special waiver from Article XI, granted in the 1950s.

GATT allows all countries to establish their own health and safety standards. Under GATT, only developing countries were allowed to impose tariffs on manufactured goods. But many protected their domestic industries by limiting foreign investment, which was not covered by GATT.

Until the 1960s, most American corporations made products for sale to Americans. But by the 1980s, US corporations who had ventured abroad

began selling to foreign markets. By 1987 for example, Gillette had 61% of sales abroad and 3M, 45%.

Honda corporation now talks about switching its car production back and forth according to which country is cheaper at the time. The new global corporations threaten both unions and governments with plant relocations. International branches of a corporation change the prices they charge one another, and allocate overhead by different formulas, according to the host country's tax structure to get around protective measures.

As world trade increased during the 1980s, living standards in most of the world declined, while debt soared.

The current round of GATT negotiations is designed to impose a laissez-faire economy on the world. As well as opening up agriculture, manufacturing and services to multinational monopoly, the GATT restructure will make new rules for "intellectual property" - allowing corporations to control technology and even plant and animal varieties, through patents. - (Adapted from *Blueprint for Social Justice* Feb 92).

Toxic Cement Plants

SUGARMAN TAKES THE LOW ROAD

Hollywood mogul Burt Sugarman is best known as producer of the Gong Show and the hit movie, *Children of a Lesser God*. He is married to TV personality Mary Hart of Entertainment Tonight.

Sugarman is known around Hollywood as an important guy. Norman Brokaw, chairman of the William Morris Agency, who has known Sugarman for 30 years, and represents Ms Hart, says, "When a guy like Burt speaks, you better listen. He's a good businessman, and a good businessman is tough."

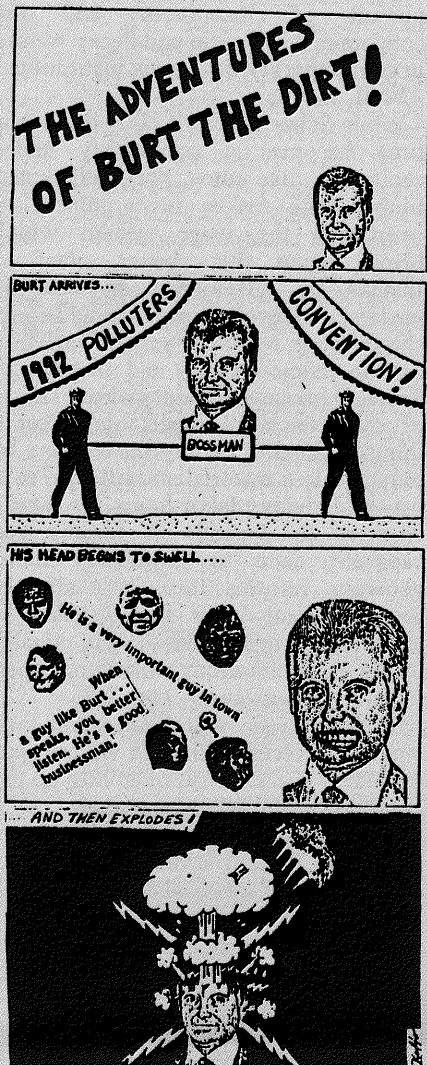
Unfortunately for Burt, the people of Lehigh Valley are not listening, and are even questioning his business sense. Burt is chairman and CEO of Giant Group Ltd. The Giant Group, based in Harleyville, SC, is primarily in the business of making cement. Sugarman's leadership has brought the cement business a toxic twist, by burning hazardous waste in cement kilns. This saves the company money on fuel, and producers of toxic waste pay the Giant Group to get rid of it.

Now, Keystone Cement of Bath, PA, which is controlled by Sugarman, plans to take the toxic route. Keystone has suggested that the future of the company depends on burning hazardous waste. What Keystone would rather not talk about is the fact that the burning process emits toxins into the air. Or the fact that the toxic ash residue will be incorporated into the cement, which will be used for building material, water pipes and other products for use by consumers.

Keystone has also used the old "jobs versus environment" argument. Workers are rightfully concerned about their jobs, and within the confines of Keystone, the tactic has succeeded in dividing them from the community. Keystone has been unable to state clearly whether or not the workers

themselves will receive any of the huge profits from burning. Nor can Keystone explain what will happen to the workers if other more modern cement plants get a permit to burn, rendering Keystone unable to compete.

But Burt Sugarman is no stranger to controversy. He has been described as a self-serving looter of public companies. Soon after he became chairman, the Giant Group turned profitable - but just barely. Sugarman



drew a \$2.5 million salary and bonus. In effect, the Giant Group has become Sugarman's steady source of cash for his lifestyle and stock market speculation.

In January 1989, Sugarman traded his shares in Media General for cash and a newsprint recycling mill in Pomona, California, the only recycling mill in the state. Shortly after, the state of California passed a bill requiring newspaper publishers to use recycled newsprint. Sugarman also gave two donations of \$10,000 to California Democrat Willie Brown.

Sugarman told a former Giant Group that he hates visiting the dirty and decrepit cement plants, and that he burns his suit and shoes after each visit.

The Lehigh Valley branch of the IWW is part of the local Coalition for a Safe Environment (LV CASE). LV CASE fears that the large number of cement plants in the surrounding area will also start burning toxic waste in kilns, faced with competition from Keystone. Lehigh Valley is already in the top 5% of highly polluted areas of the US. Lead, mercury, arsenic and cadmium are among the poisons released by the hazardous waste burning, yet the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environment has given Keystone the initial go-ahead to burn.

Lehigh Valley IWW has helped organize rallies and information gatherings, which have been well attended by people of the community. Keystone complained that the actions were by "outsiders".

Charles Elliot, representative of LV CASE, stated the real issue. "We want to know whether our community is being put to risk largely to further enrich one man: multi-millionaire Burt Sugarman. We are also outraged that Sugarman actively promotes burning toxic waste in our community, when he so fears the effects of the toxins that he burns his own clothes after each visit." - Jeff Kelly

Health Food Chain Fights Unions

The Whole Foods Market in Berkeley is the only non-union supermarket in town, which is why two unions decided to set up pickets. United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 870 and Butchers Local 120 pickets try to persuade customers to boycott the store.

The clientele of the store are new-age and yuppie type people, many involved in social change or consciousness raising to a degree. Reaction has been mixed, with some customers staying away, but many crossing the picket line to get their health food.

The management of Whole Foods holds monthly staff meetings described by workers variously as "pep talks" or "indoctrination". A union supporter was fired, but was reinstated after the two unions filed charges on her behalf with the NLRB.

Whole Foods management says it doesn't need a union, because it operates under the "Japanese team system" (IW readers will recognize this as the system known in Japan as the "American team system"-ed.) in which managers and workers are "partners -- with openness, trust, community, shared purpose, joy, and love -- to fulfill their common goal of serving the customer's needs and desires...." Whole Foods Market enables many of our team members to fulfill their higher purpose of helping to make the world a better place." The quotations are from an essay by Whole Foods CEO John Mackey, entitled "Beyond Unions."

But while employees fulfill their "higher purpose," they also get paid less than workers at other supermarkets, and their medical insurance plan is inferior. Whole Foods is the largest chain of natural food stores in the US, mostly owned by the CEO and a few executives.

The so-called Team system is a small step forward in work, but it still leaves the employees subject to the whims and schemes of bosses whose sole motive is profit. When bosses are willing to share all their decision making power as equals, then we will have a "team." A team under a boss is simply a bunch of slaves who make the bosses work easier by bossing each other.

Caterpillar Inc. and referred to the respective plants for further testing by your company," read a March 19, 1992 letter from the agency to Maxine Glassey, Caterpillar's hourly employment manager.

The state scrapped the program. Now if union members across Illinois could use solidarity to keep city and state cops off the scene, fewer scabs would get in.

GREYHOUND UNION TO RETURN TO JOBS

March 2, the New York Amalgamated Council of Greyhound Local Unions, representing more than 9300 bus line workers, told its members to resume working at their old jobs. Greyhound employees have been on strike for 2 years.

The decision came after the union's lawyers advised that legal actions by the union against Greyhound would take at least a year, and that appeals would probably stretch this out to 4 or 5 years.

"In light of this action," the Greyhound Council said, "the Council has sanctioned the return to work of any Greyhound striker who chooses to do so. You will not be considered a scab by the union if you sign up to return to work after this date."

The Council said it hopes to "prevent the company from hiring any more scabs" and "put our own people back on the inside."

The Greyhound strike started in March 1990 and quickly turned militant when the company brought in scab drivers. The strikers never got the support they had hoped for from other unions.-LV Branch Bulletin

Caterpillar Workers

Fight For Jobs & Union

Caterpillar Corporation's attempt to break the United Auto Workers union got more severe this April, as the corporation insisted it would implement its "final" contract offer. The company warned workers to return to work on April 5 or face permanent replacement by scabs. During the first week of this scab-in the company has claimed several hundred of the 13,000 striking workers are crossing the picket line while union sources put the number at several dozens.

Caterpillar has also begun advertising for scabs in newspapers and claims nearly 50,000 telephone applications in the first three days. The union took action to prevent the state of Illinois from using state resources to process applications from scabs. Illinois Bell reports up to 15,000 calls per hour are being attempted to Caterpillar.

When Caterpillar attempted to reopen it's factories on April 5, the streets of Peoria, Aurora and other Illinois towns were jammed with union members driving slowly to keep the scabs away from the plant gates. Police and rent-a-thugs armed with video cameras trained on the union members also were out in force.

The Chicago Tribune reported wonderingly that the gathering of thousands of workers in the streets of Peoria to block scabs "seemed more like a friendly small-town Midwest celebration than a gritty, do-or-die dispute." Gathered in thousands, seeing that the first battle of the scab call had been won by the workers it was time to heave a sigh of relief and feel victorious. No one however knows more than those workers how much they have on the line and how hard they will have to struggle to maintain solidarity. No one knows better than a UAW member how quickly the union

hacks can sell you out.

UAW members in the heavy manufacturing industries of auto, aviation and agricultural implements, are people from (roughly) 35 to 55 who have ten or fifteen or twenty years seniority. These are stable working class people fighting for their homes and families and communities. The corporate owned media lackeys in northern Illinois are painting the workers as stupidly fighting for a principle while risking a job. Scabs are painted as rational people exercising some individual right to fuck over your brothers and sisters that seems to be especially moral in hard times.

The UAW began a partial strike on November 3 of last year when the giant manufacturer refused to bargain on the contract. The months following have been a back-and-forth of lockouts and strikes, which now has 13,000 Caterpillar workers in the streets. The company contends it has not been hurt economically by the strike. Exports are covered by stockpiled inventory and US purchases are down due to the deepening depression in this country. Skeptical economists say even if that is true economic pressure on the company will soon be apparent. This is backed up by the timing of the company's scab call.

Economically the struggle does not make sense for Caterpillar. Workers account for about 6% of the company's production costs. Economists figure that when those costs are less than 10% it is not worth moving production to lower-wage areas. The high skill level of Caterpillar workers, the company's investment in production machinery, and the geographic concentration of supplier firms and transportation infrastructure are not economically replaceable by Caterpillar if it abandons

these plants where 75% of its products are made. The company profitably exports 60% of what it makes in the US.

The company is simply waging class war with this struggle. The UAW, shrunken shell though it is, is one of the last bastions of workers who receive a "decent" wage. For 20 years wages in the US have been falling and unions have been crumbling. GM recently whipsawed the Arlington, Texas UAW local into a competition with workers at the Willow Run Michigan plant. Now Willow Run is to be shut down and the Arlington local has agreed to slave-like conditions on the shop floor. Caterpillar and the other manufacturing giants see the present time as a good opportunity to bust the UAW.

Unionism is practically illegal in the United States. Organizers are fired. Strikers are replaced. The full military power of the state is at the beck and call of the corporations. This environment combined with a half century of UAW officials being in bed with the corporate bosses must make the UAW look especially vulnerable to Caterpillar and the other manufacturing giants.

ONE SMALL VICTORY

The union seems to have blocked an attempt by Illinois Dept of Employment Security (sic) to set up a referral program to handle applications from out of state scabs. State officials denied the program had anything to do with the lockout and strike struggle between Caterpillar and the union. They also had to admit it was planned to come into practice at this time (coincidence? or enemy action?). They also scrapped the program because it violates federal law. Governments lie.

The union released copies of letters between Caterpillar and the state in which the program was outlined. "The local offices will either contact the applicant by telephone to gather more detailed information...or the offices will mail a Job Service application...All applicants will be screened according to the job qualifications listed by

We Work Hard For The Money

THE OVERWORKED AMERICAN
By Juliet B. Schor, New York: Basic Books 1991. 247p. US\$21 cloth.

Harvard Professor Juliet Schor has written **THE OVERWORKED AMERICAN**, a book which should gladden the heart of many a Wobbly in that it confirms what the IWW has been saying since it began the struggle for the 4-hour day & 4-day week: our class works hard for the money.

Just what constitutes overwork is something the author goes into great detail explaining; for example increased overtime, moonlighting, two-earner families, no decrease in the absolute time devoted to housework. Since 1969 our class has had to put in about a month more labor time per year per person, which means time taken away from leisure.

"...since 1973, free time has fallen nearly 40 per cent -- from a median figure of 26 hours a week to slightly under 17."

How come?

Well, there are a number of reasons. The AFL-CIO purge of militant unionists in the wake of the anti-communist hysteria following World War II, resulted in, among other things, abandonment of the struggle for longer vacations and a shorter work week. (Unfortunately, the purges following World War I aren't given any weight; but what the heh. You can't do everything in one book.)

That the outcome could have been different, is implied by Schor's statistical breakdown of paid vacation time in European countries: as much as 8 weeks by union contract in Sweden, a minimum of 3 weeks by law in Ireland. Schor writes, "After bitter strikes through the 1980's the large German union IG Metall has now won the 35-hour week for its members, a gain that is expected to spread throughout the labor force."

So why are US wage slaves such workaholics?

Professor Schor has a theory of "employment rent" that describes at

least part of the picture: "Employment rent is the value of a job to the worker."

Higher wages and benefits won by workers in their union struggles have also made their jobs more valuable to them, thus making them more responsible to the capitalist and state entities which hire them. "The higher the employment rent, the more disciplined and profitable a workforce will be." Thus, a docile, shall we say, bought off, working class is more profitable to exploit.

Challenges to the control of labor time are resisted by capital, not only because of pure power but also because control of labor time is the key to profitability. As the author quite correctly says, "Capitalist systems such as our (sic) own do not operate in order to provide employment. Their guiding principle is the pursuit of profitability." In other words, it's cheaper to pay time and a half to one worker, plus benefits, than it is to pay straight time to 2 workers with 2 sets of benefits.

US workers have been suckered into trading increased hours of work for imaginary increases in material wealth, via overtime or working 2 jobs. What they've gotten, according to the latest statistics, has been a 17% decline in real wages, since the 70's, while the capitalist class has been able to reap the profits from a 13% increase in real output per worker (See IW Aug-Sept 1991).

According to Schor, "just to reach their 1973 standard of living, they must work 245 more hours, or 6-plus extra weeks per year."

The author asserts that, "Today the principle of sale of labor time is thoroughly accepted." While this acceptance may be doubted, it is well that she tells it like it is to a well-heeled bestseller audience. She goes on to say that workers have historically "struggled over the ownership of time - how much was theirs, how much the boss's." But today, "many fight for overtime -- the right to sell as much time as they can."

Thus we have a portrait of a working class forever chasing that pot of gold under the rainbow known as the 'American Dream.' Let there be no doubt that there is much truth to this analysis; but doesn't forced overtime play a role? And what about the fact that workers get back in wages only about 18% of what they actually produce? Isn't it a fact that such a reality seeps into the workers' consciousness after a while, having something of an effect on this endless pursuit of 'happiness' and the concomitant cynicism and decay we see in contemporary bourgeois institutions? Well, maybe.

While Schor makes it clear that labor time becomes a commodity under capitalism, like autos, pork bellies and timber, she makes no argument to overthrow the wage system which brings about this absurd situation. Instead of developing an analysis leading to revolutionary conclusions, she ends up writing a sort of variation on the theme of Zen and the Art of Social Democratic Maintenance. This is of course the more respectable, saleable thing to do. But calling on workers to pursue a less materialistic lifestyle as a way of reducing labor hours, or asking workers to depend on forcing the capitalist state to implement more generous reforms through a slightly more militant labor force, tends to legitimate wage slavery, and finally leaves an unconscious work force open to future takeaways.

Of course, as Wobs we should take whatever pieces of the pie we can get, but not at the expense of giving up the struggle for the whole enchilada.

In all, it should be said that Juliet Schor has written a very useful book. The statistical breakdowns and the bibliography alone are worth the read. Checking it out from your local library should be fairly easy because of its bestseller status. There's a lot of ammunition laying around in these pages that could come in handy in the struggle for the 4 hour day, and the class war in general. - Mike Ballard

THE STAR-SPANGLED GEORGE BUSH

(Commander-in-Chief and Voodoo Economist)
by Albert Schatz

O say can you see
by the dawn's early light,
the poor on the street
where they spent the whole night?

Whose torn clothes and worn shoes
through the perilous night
let them freeze while the rich
saw them gallantly dying.

And the street lights' bright glare
the cold snow in the air
gave proof through the night
that the rich do not care.

So you see why the star-spangled banner now waves
o'er the land of the rich
and poor people's graves.

-2-

On the streets dimly seen
by the rich who don't care
are cold, hungry children
who know only despair.

What is that which the breeze
from the rich part of town
as it blows through skid row
tells those who are down?

'Why don't you catch the gleam
of the morning's first beam
and get out of sight!
Don't stay here! Don't be seen!'

So you see why the star-spangled banner now waves
o'er the land of the rich
and poor people's graves.

-3-

The rich are the ones
who so vauntingly swore
there would be many jobs
from their trickle-down score.

But junk bond mergers
by George Bush's clones
robbed us of jobs, food,
health care, pensions and homes.

The unemployed workers
and bag ladies in need
are some of the victims
of rich people's greed.

So you see why the star-spangled banner now waves
o'er the land of the rich
and poor people's graves.

-4-

The big middle class
is decreasing each day
as Bush liberates them
from jobs and from pay.

They voted for Bush
for support from his class,
but got a pie in the sky
and a kick in the ass.

Middle class people
were joining the poor
while George Bush enjoyed
his overseas tour.

So you see why the star-spangled banner now waves
o'er the land of the rich
and poor people's graves.



ABSOLUTE SILENCE.
THE SILENCE OF THE GRAVEYARD IS THE SILENCE OF THE MOUTH OF THE DEAD. THE SILENCE OF THE GRAVEYARD IS THE SILENCE OF THE MOUTH OF THE DEAD. THE SILENCE OF THE GRAVEYARD IS THE SILENCE OF THE MOUTH OF THE DEAD.

ABSOLUT SLAPPS ADBUSTERS

small magazine slaps back

The small (circulation 15,000) quarterly magazine *Adbusters* was recently attacked by Absolut Vodka. The Swedish liquor company threatened a lawsuit against the Vancouver-based magazine for a satirical ad entitled "Absolut Nonsense." The parody read: "Any suggestion that our advertising campaign has contributed to alcoholism, drunk driving or wife and child beating is absolute nonsense. No one pays any attention to advertising."

Early in March, Absolut Vodka claimed irreparable damage to their reputation and threatened legal action unless remaining copies of the magazine were surrendered, a retraction published, and an agreement made that *Adbusters* would never again print similar material.

Representatives of the non-profit magazine contend that "Absolut Nonsense" is a fair comment on alcohol advertising saying one in ten North Americans is an alcoholic and children view 100,000 alcohol commercials before reaching legal drinking age.

A statement released by the staff of the magazine also asserts: "There is an important underlying issue at stake here: the ability of large private corporations to censor and control public debate, to stifle free expression, and to dominate our mental and cultural environments with their marketing ad public relations agendas."

Kalle Lasn, *Adbusters* publisher says, "They're terrified of taking us on in a public debate about alcohol advertising and its impact on society."

Adbusters is publishing a second Absolut ad. The April edition of the magazine carries an ad entitled "Absolute Silence" that features a coffin

in place of a bottle. Keith McIntyre, marketing manager for Absolut Vodka Canada, warned *Adbusters* not to run the ad: "If you want Absolut to play hardball, then Absolut will play hardball."

SLAPPS

-- freedom of speech...you better watch what you say

The attack on *Adbusters* is part of a growing trend of corporations, especially developers, who can afford to finance a civil lawsuit for its value not to win in court, but to intimidate small magazine and newsletter publishers, and citizens groups who stand in their way.

SLAPPS -- Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation -- are intended to intimidate and silence. Many of these lawsuits are not successful in the courtroom but are successful in intimidating those who got sued into giving up the fight to right some wrong. Because a defense against a lawsuit can range from \$20,000 to \$500,000 and consume large amounts of time and energy the small non-profits and individual working people in citizens groups are hard pressed to fight back. Even if a counter-suit is won (a small but increasing trend) the damage is often done. People's organizing attention gets shifted from attacking the developer or corporation into a courtroom defense. The threat of losing a suit for big damages is terrifying for working folks.

While most of these suits are about libel, some are about interference in contracts. The city of Worcester Massachusetts for example is suing 23

residents there for demanding a state required environmental hearing be held. Claiming losses of \$500,000 the City is suing for that money.

More typical is a case in New York where a neighborhood group resisted development by a firm named Terra. In August 1987 one neighbor hung a sheet in front of her house which said "This neighborhood will not be Terra-ized" and the developer hit back with a \$6.6 million libel suit against six members of the neighborhood group. Five settled with the developer. The sixth countersued and spent five years tied up in court before having the libel suit against her thrown out on a technicality. She still got hit with damages for delaying the construction for an hour and a half.

SLAPPS are part of a general trend of cutting off freedom of speech and expression. Coupled with greater monitoring of people by government secret police and corporate private police this is part of an international trend to control civilian populations. As musician Jello Biafra put it, "What they're trying to do with radio, explicit lyrics stickers on records, the McCarran Walter Act and other ways is start by saying they're protecting the public from wicked rock bands or whatever, but if you follow the train of dominos that fall down what they're really trying to do is cut off our access to information itself. If they can't do it by law they know there's other ways they can do it." SLAPPS as a way to intimidate people into silence fits exactly into this general trend.

IN THE BELLY OF A LOVE BOAT

(I Got Them Old Fire Room Blues)

by Arthur J. Miller

Working on cruise ships that cater to middle class decadence is never much fun for a yardbird. These ships are floating spectacles, unreal illusions - above the main deck these passengers' playgrounds look like floating grand palaces. But once you get below, you find a world unimagined by those above.

The social structure of this world starts out with English officers, Italian crews, Philippine porters, while down deep with the laundry are the Chinese. Only the officers have decent conditions. The Chinese live in unbearably cramped and very unsanitary quarters. The crew are not allowed to leave their stations and some must piss in cans and pour it out into the bilge.

The ship we are working is Liberian registered, that's a little West African country that has been torn up in a bloody civil war. They have a bigger merchant marine than the US, though most of their ships will never see their ports, and most of the true owners have never set foot on the continent of Africa. Like vessels registered in Panama and the Bahamas, they fly what is called the flag of convenience.

This, in short, means no unions, no licensed crews, no pollution control, so safety standards beyond insurance company requirements, very low pay, and a neo-colonialist social hierarchy.

Any time you see a ship with Monrovia on its tail, it's Liberian flagged. Most are older ships that could not pass inspection anywhere else. They are fire traps with greasy engine rooms, fire rooms and machinery spaces, and grease in their up-takes. A fire would burn through the ship before anybody had time to get to life boats. The shells are so rusted that even a minor collision would send these death traps to the bottom.

The job I just got done working on was the fire room on one of the Princess cruise ships. The fire room contained three 40-foot boilers, some pumps that were leaking bunker oil into the bilge and the feed pumps. The job was to re-tube all 3 boilers (which entailed taking down a lot of pipe that was in the way), to overhaul the soot blower pipes, and to bring main steam and auxiliary steam up to 963 PSI and hold it.

There are catwalks all around the boilers but much of this had to be removed to get the tubes in and out. So we had to walk on boards. There were people working on all four levels at the same time with over 30 people in the fire room. There was asbestos everywhere, off the pipes, feed pumps and boilers, with asbestos dust up to 7 inches deep.

At one point my partner was hit on the head by a 4-foot chunk of asbestos lagging that had fallen from an overhead pipe.

Yeah, they came in once to check the air, but when there's smoke in the air their instruments don't function correctly. Most of the time there was no ventilation for the burning and welding. At times the smoke was so bad it burned our eyes and breathing was difficult even with respirators.

Everybody knew about the asbestos. Everybody understood that some, maybe most of us, would die from the exposure. This deadly dust was so thick in the air you could shine a flashlight and see the fibres. You could see in the faces of the workers the raw pain, hollow eyes and distant stares, staring at death.

Hey, man, don't you see? The death dust in on us, in our clothes and shoes, penetrating the pores of our skin and nesting in our hair.

Bad staging, debris falling from above, fire raining from welding and burning, fibreglass showers, black soot all over from the bunker oil they burn, and when the boilers are lit, working on top in 120-degree heat that rivals hell itself. Steam leaking out of broken joints; a cry of pain, a burn or broken bone; a 4-pound hammer dropped 40 feet onto a worker's back; a knocked

out scaler from a dropped torch. HEADS UP! FIRE IN THE HOLE!

12, 13, 14 hours a day, 7 days a week 'til the job is done, the tool-pushers say. No time off for good behavior! But for the forgotten souls who had to suffer that 40-foot money machine, this job will never be done.

"These boats ain't worth using as target practice," an old-timer proclaims. Some young wise-ass speaks back: "But this ain't no boat, it's a ship!"

The old-timer looks up at the kid and says in a voice low and stern with experience, "I have worked upon these here rust buckets for over 30 years. A 'ship' denotes a bit of respect from me. There are many boats on the water. There are few ships anymore."

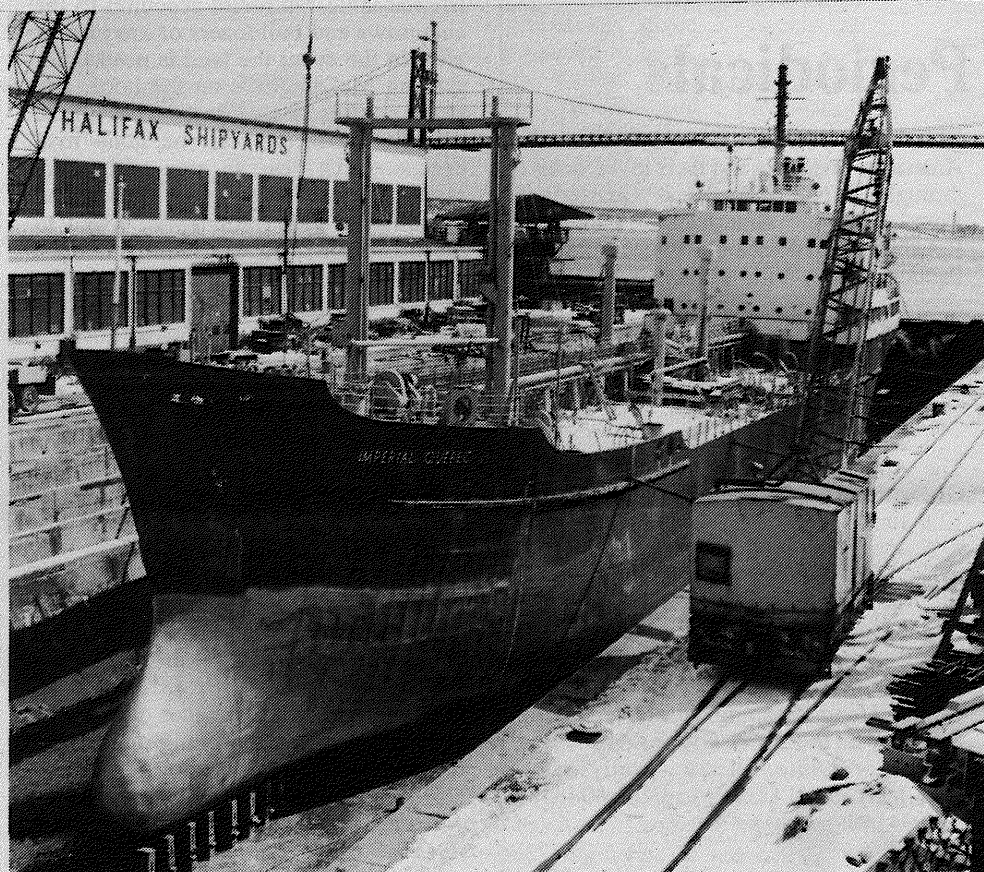
After the old tubes were cut out and new ones replaced into the boiler, then we could test them. First the super heaters, then the economizer and finally the boilers themselves. Then we went after the main steam and auxiliary steam lines. Every time we tried to bring up the pressure a new joint would blow out.

Most of the main steam lines were 12-inch lines. We replaced about 15 gaskets on the line, which was a major

were the rusty joints. I had to stand there yelling at the safetyman that this problem had to be fixed NOW and that he had to get a rigger to put a chainfall on it.

When you get working around a group, you get talking about one thing or another. One day we were talking about a collision between a Japanese fish processor and a Chinese freighter. The fuel from the fish processor stained beaches from the south tip of Vancouver Island all down the coast of Washington to northern Oregon. Everyone agreed there was no way to get all the oil off the rocks, and that you cannot clean up the marshes. There was not a worker there who believed a word the "Press" said. First it was a big news story, then they said the area was cleaned, saying nothing about the true damage, nothing about how to prevent it happening again, and little about how the whole thing was handled.

This was one of those rare moments when you could look around and read the faces - everyone there wished the spill had not happened. At that moment all the workers were environmentalists. The talk soon came round to why the collision happened. Once you boil down



problem because there were actually only two of us who were real steamfitters. Thus we had to make up most of the joints between the two of us. This is a major drag as you must take a 10 or 15 pound hammer and beat the nuts tight until they won't move and then go around 3 times. It is very dangerous to have much of this work done by people who don't know what to look out for.

The pusher had a burner to burn off the bolts on a bunch of flanges, without checking the line. Then he sent down a bunch of pipefitters to drive the bolts out and put in new gaskets. I was sent down to make up one flange where someone had already driven the bolts out. It had dropped down some, so I looked down the line to see why. I noticed there was no hanger on it, and at the other end was a pipefitter who was driving the bolts out from the flange at his end.

"Hey bud!" I yelled. "There ain't no hanger on that pipe and the flange on this end is loose!" He looked up in shock, realizing that a 12-inch steam pipe about 15 feet long was ready to fall on his head.

Some of my time was spent solving safety problems. Getting scaffold boards wired down, turning off leaking gas and oxygen lines - at one point there were so many leaks, I told the so-called safetyman that if he didn't shut the mainline down I was going to go out to the pier and cut the line with my knife. The main staging coming into the fire room on the third level (the main way in) was wired to an old steam pipe which someone had cut off its only hanger, so the only things holding it up

the fat of illusion created by the media, the facts come out.

1. Neither ship had proper radar and radio equipment, because there is no reason for two ships to hit each other in open water.
2. The fish processor was carrying too much fuel in oversize tanks, to avoid pulling into ports to refuel.
3. Neither ship had any oil containment equipment.
4. There is no one enforcing environmental standards and safety rules.

I shocked everyone when I said I believed the unions should be the ones to enforce the standards and safety. I explained that we couldn't trust the bosses to do it, because the bosses are out for maximum profit at the lowest cost. We couldn't trust the government because they are on the side of profits. We couldn't trust the "environmental organizations" because they will not listen to the workers to find out where the real problems lie, and because their solutions always make the working people pay, never the bosses or the environmentalists. If the unions could learn to work together, we could force environmental standards and safe working conditions in the maritime industries.

The talk then went to the great universal question: why? Why do they let sail so many ships that are known to be unsafe? Why do tankers run without oil containment booms or without an empty tank so there is someplace to pump oil that leaks? We came up with two points.

1. Ships can be built environment and worker safe. Tankers can use double

bottoms and wing tanks that would protect against collision and running aground. These features must have forced ventilation to prevent the build-up of vapors from leaking cargo, which can turn the double bottom into a bomb. Most tankers have cracks. A study found that only one US shipyard, and a few in Japan, have built tankers without cracks in them. Without double bottoms, the cargo leaks into the water.

2. The maritime industries want maximum profit at the least cost. The public knows nothing about shipping, so the profiteers are able to do whatever they want. The environmental groups would rather talk down to the workers than talk with them. And most "worker organizations" do the same thing. (Classism is alive and well throughout society, including the left, this being one of the forms of bigotry that is still acceptable.

Slamming steam joints for hours on end. Some of them were so tough you had to use a 15-pound hammer with full over-the-head swings. You have to slam together a steam joint just right for it not to leak. I had to change one gasket in between two 12-inch steam valves which were bolted down and rusted solid. It was so tight we had to drive in stake wedges to open it up. When we got the new gasket in and removed the wedges, the flange only sprung back on one side, leaving a gap. A steam joint has to be near perfectly lined up. Over and over we had to slam those 4 bolts on the gap side, only moving it a little at a time. We finally got it made up, but all the heavy slamming took out my left hand.

In the fire room there were no winners among the slaves. The bosses made a bundle. And the ship made it down to L.A. to pick up the next load of suckers.

You rich folks, remember that you got rich by cutting corners. Some day those cut corners will catch up with you, and one of these ships will go down with everyone on it.

The union did very good on this job because work had been slow and this job got a lot of union members working. We pay the union a flat rate per month, and a percentage off each hour we worked. It is true that the Business Agent did come down into the fire room once, shook his head and said that conditions were the worse he'd ever seen. Then he proceeded to do nothing about it.

Something has been lost somewhere. The union should not be worrying about how much money it makes; rather, it should be an organization of workers, for workers and run by workers. The 8 unions in the shipyard compete with each other. Remember in the maritime industry the job (ship) can be moved in time of strikes. Thus workers end up scabbing on each other all the time.

Like workers in other industries, maritime workers need revolutionary industrial unions. Such a union will have as its basic principle, THOU SHALT NOT SCAB. If there is a job action against a ship, no worker would sail it, no one would tie it up or load it, give it services or repair it. With an industrial union, that ship would be dead in the water until the dispute was settled. We can force the owners to sail only worker-safe and environment-safe ships. We could also work on international pay scales and fair distribution of work.

The job got done in the fire room and everybody went different ways. What percentage will develop asbestos diseases? Whose lungs were scarred from welding smoke? This time, we did not use our power. This time we made no gain. Maybe next time we will fight back -- or maybe next time there will be no more next times.

I'm gathering all the information I can on the maritime industry: wrecks, spills, strikes, safety and unions. This information will be used for a pamphlet, "Industrial Unionism and the Maritime Industry." Please send information to: Louisiana Jack, c/o Bayou La Rose, PO Box 5464, Tacoma WA 98415-0464.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workers Solidarity Alliance, the US Section of the International Workers Association, will hold its 9th annual convention in New York City May 22-24, 1992.

The French Anarchist Federation is holding an international conference May 1, 2, and 3 in Paris.

IMPORTANT ORGANIZING INFO

The Wobbly organizing pamphlet is now available in Spanish. Copies can be obtained from IWW headquarters, 1095 Market St. #204, SF, CA 94103.

BIKE AID '92 Cyclists from around the world will start out from different North American cities June 15, and arrive at Washington DC August 23. Along the way cyclists will raise money from sponsors, and visit Native American communities. Bike Aid '92, 333 Valencia St. #330, San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 431-4480.

NATIVE SOLIDARITY DAYS

Support for Native Sovereignty (PO Box 2104, Seattle WA 98111) is calling for international days of action on these dates:

June 26, 1992 - Anniversary of the Oglala fire on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota resulting in Leonard Peltier's wrongful imprisonment. (LPDC, PO Box 583 Lawrence KS 66044)

July 6, 1992 - Anniversary of the forced removal of Dine (Navajo) families at Big Mountain, Arizona, to make way for world's largest strip coal mine, still being resisted after 16 years. Thousands of Dine are being made homeless. Peabody Coal and the US government want the job finished by summer 1992 because they've made a big sale to Japan. (Support for Future Generations, PO Box 22134 Flagstaff AZ 86002)

October 12, 1992 - Anniversary of 500 years of Native Resistance. The moral integrity of the North American progressive social change movement rests with its ability to face not only the injustice of the past, but also the wrongs still being done to Native people.

IWW Prisoner Solidarity: Contact John Perotti, MANCI #A167712, PO Box 1368, Mansfield, OH 44901. Also Richard Maiello, 8 Production Way #1737, Avenel, NJ 07001

THE MAN WHO SHOT FRICK

A Remembrance of Alexander Berkman

July 23, 1892 -- July 23, 1992

I would like to invite your participation in a symposium/concert on the centenary of Alexander Berkman's attentat on Henry Clay Frick during the Homestead Strike. Scholars, historians, musicians, poets, and people with slides, videos, or plays about Berkman are welcome to contact me for information on how to participate. Group and individuals are also invited to be co-sponsors.

Alexander Berkman is most remembered for his attentat, or for his relationship with Emma Goldman. He also authored PRISON MEMOIRS OF AN ANARCHIST, THE ABC'S OF ANARCHISM, and THE RUSSIAN TRAGEDY; edited "Mother Earth", Emma Goldman's paper, and published his own paper, "The Blast". He led protests against Rockefeller during the Ludlow Massacre, organized for the IWW and for Ferrer's Modern School movement, and helped start the Anarchist Black Cross.

The Remembrance will take place at the Rosebud/Metropol entertainment complex in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Contact:

Gary Doebler
PO Box 22412
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
USA
Message: (412) 734-8339

NEW BOOKS

SOLIDARITY UNIONISM by Staughton Lynd, with cartoons by Mike Konopacki. (US)\$7.45 from Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, 1740 Greenleaf, Chicago IL 60626.

CRYSTAL-GAZING THE AMBER FLUID poems & illustrations, Carlos Cortez. 55 pages, Kerr Publishing, PO Box 914, Chicago, IL 60690.

DUMBING US DOWN: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling John Taylor Gatto. (CDN)\$11.95 New Society Books, PO Box 189, Gabriola, BC V0R 1X0. A teacher who quit argues that schools don't really teach anything except how to follow orders, and advocates independent study, community service, privacy, and involvement in the real world for children.

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: A directory of women in Canada specializing in global issues. (CDN)\$17, The Women's Directory Project (CRIA), 408-151 Slater St. Ottawa ON, K1P 5H3

Periodicals

IRON HOUSE DRUM for Native American prisoners and their loved ones throughout North America. Quarterly from Native American Prisoners Rehabilitation Research Project, 2848 Paddock Lane, Villa Hills, KY 41017.

JOURNAL OF PRISONERS ON PRISONS Box 60779, University Outlet, Edmonton Alberta Canada T6G 2S9. 2 issues per year, \$10.

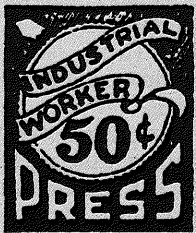
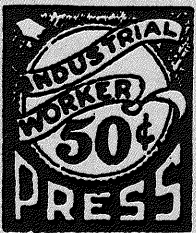
The Anti-WARrior: published by the GI Refusenix, 48 Shattuck Square, Box 129, Berkeley CA

T - Shirts

100% cotton. Comfortable and with your favorite Wobbly images: General Strike, Hand-Clasping workers, Black Sabo-cat or the IWW Globe. Available in red or white. Please specify size (s,m,l,xl). Send US\$12 to POB 40485, SF, 94140.

Political Action Conference

Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice has announced a national conference June 6 at Madison. Objectives include combining resources, finding new tactics, and laying the ground for a new political party. Professor Robert Kimbrough, 3206 Gregory St. Madison WI 53711. (608) 238-1266.



Buy Press Stamps: Support Industrial Worker by purchasing these old Press Stamps, available from delegates, branches, or from IWW Headquarters.

Design a New IW Sticker: Something two or three inches wide. We'll print all the designs after July and let our readers choose their favorites. Below is an example of a design sent in by D. Sacz.

If you need to work, you're an

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

The paper that works for you.
(415) 863-WOBS.

LEFT SIDE C.C. Redcloud



Any organization not backed by the conglomerates or other governmental auspices are always in need of operating expenses and Greenpeace has a lot of people who put their own derrieres on the line, the same as our Fellow Workers on the West Coast who are challenging the ravishers of the Redwoods.

Every minute, somewhere on this globe of ours, over 100 acres of irreplaceable rainforest succumb to the chainsaws and bulldozers or are just set afire in the event the land is needed for grazing McDunghills on the hoof, and at the current rate of destruction all the world's rainforests can be gone in a decade. Each year an area of tropical rainforest greater in size than Washington state is being sacrificed to the greed of those whose only interest is how much money can be made in the shortest amount of time, never mind the future consequences of generations of humans and other life-forms yet to come.

Greenpeace is out to expose the abuses of the international timber industry to as many people as possible in the hope of exerting pressure on these companies and the governments that support them. They plan to continue to blockade with their fleet of Greenpeace ships, timber shipments from the worst of these offenders.

The destruction of the Amazon rainforests has potential dire environmental consequences on the rest of the World. Brazil, being one of the economically-strapped countries of the Third-World is a favorite target of the international timber barons. Millions of acres of forest land are being cut to raise cattle for the fastfood industry or to plant tropical fruit plantations. This is for export to the more affluent areas of the World. Once these forests have disappeared, the populations of these areas, already in poverty, become even poorer and more wretched than they were before.

Greenpeace acknowledges that this problem is international in scope. While they intend to put political pressure on these large timber corporations and the governments that support them, they are also committed to direct action against these timber conglomerates. Knowing the nature of the economic system we live under, it is a foregone conclusion as to which course Greenpeace will eventually take, if they are consistent in their dedication to protect the Earth wisely.

In clear conscience, your scribe can give Greenpeace a plug as these are the people who really put themselves on the line. On the high seas they have confronted the Whalers, even to the extent of going out in small boats and putting themselves between the Whales and the harpooners. They have been instrumental in bringing World-wide attention to the burning of hazardous wastes at sea in giant incinerator ships that spread pollution throughout the marine eco-system.

Another thing Greenpeace can be respected for is their championing of some of the unique indigenous human cultures that Western chauvinists are prone to refer to as "primitive". These so-called primitive cultures, by virtue of living in close proximity to nature, are far more sophisticated in the ecological sciences than those of us who live in the "more-advanced" societies. Not only that but these so-called primitives were thousands of years ahead of Marx, Bakunin, Engels, and Kropotkin in matters of equal distribution and classless societies.

It is well to remember the people who live close to nature, especially in this year of the 500th anniversary of the voyage of Columbus. Look at the parcel of real estate that is now known as Freedomland. In less than 3 centuries a whole continent has been despoiled. Rather than learning the cooperative communalism as practised by the native inhabitants, and was practiced by their own ancestors in the distant past, the newcomers with their feudal mentalities, used all this new wealth in developing a wasteful profit system.

Columbus was not the first non-Western Hemisphere person to reach these shores and he certainly was no discoverer. Never mind the Vikings--One thousand years before Columbus, the Chinese had sailed across the Pacific in their junks and reached the Coast of North America. According to their histories they sailed along the West Coast from what is now the Alaska Panhandle down to southern Mexico. This is also borne out by the oral traditions of the people they came in contact with.

The Chinese had also been to Black Africa before the Europeans and, as in North America, they did not set up any colonies. Were the Chinese somehow nicer people than the Europeans? Or was it a simple fact that they had a humongous continent at home to spread out in? It must be remembered that during the close of Europe's "dark ages" the food potential in that continent was in limited supply and the bread-basket of the Orient was cut off by the Ottoman Empire.

In looking for a new route to that bread-basket, a whole new area of the world was brought to the awareness of the Europeans. So in reality it's not a "discovery" that's being celebrated this year. What is really being celebrated is the genesis of Colonialism with its ultimate development of Monopoly Capitalism.

It was the comedian, Dick Gregory, who quipped that the worst thing that could be said about the Indians was that they had a lousy immigration policy. That from the mouth of one whose ancestors did not come over here voluntarily.

Goyathlay, where are you now that we need you? - C.C. Redcloud

REVOLUTION SALE OF THE MILLENIUM

NOW IN PROGRESS

FREE!

NO MONEY DOWN

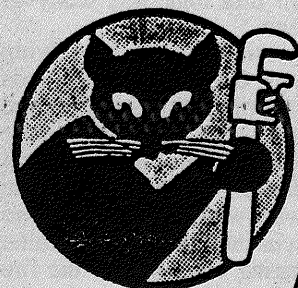
Nothing to lose!

Everything to gain!

with

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

NOBODY WALKS AWAY!



Native Solidarity 500 Years of Resistance Continues

1992 marks the 500th anniversary of the Columbus expedition. The indigenous people of North America are survivors of a holocaust. When we look at the events of the past, we must acknowledge that what occurred was an atrocity motivated by racism and greed. Though we all know we can't change the past, we must also acknowledge that the Indian Wars are still going on in a more sophisticated form.

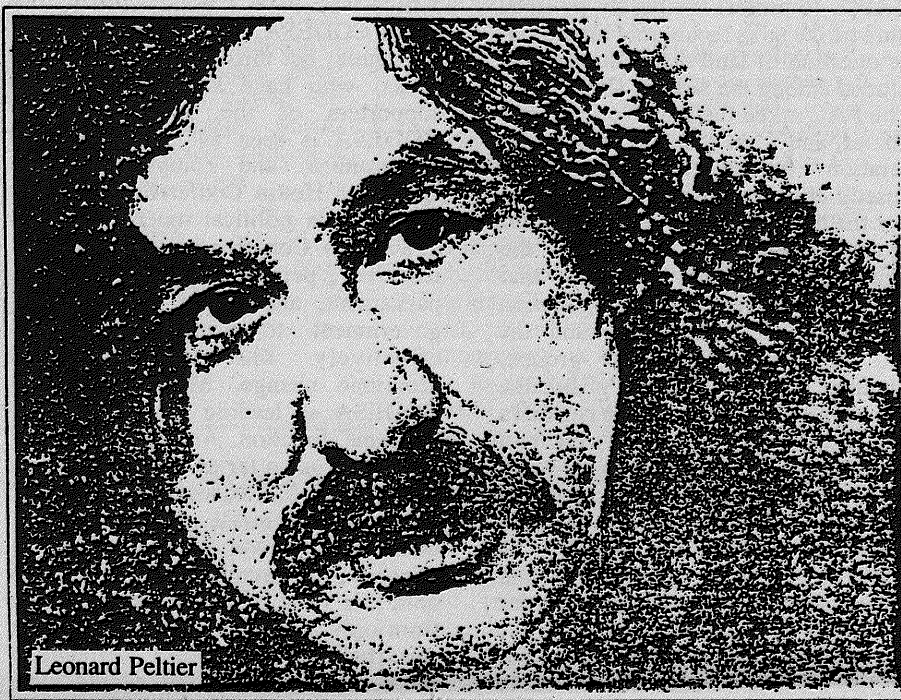
It must be remembered that treaties are supreme law, as treaties are made only between sovereign nations. This issue of Native sovereignty is at the heart of every traditional land struggle in North America.

When the reservation system was set up, Natives were pushed onto lands that nobody else wanted at the time, because the lands were no good for agriculture or cattle grazing. In the 20th century it was discovered that most of North America's minerals (coal, shale oil, natural gas, uranium) is under this land.



The government assault reached a climax on June 26, 1975, when 2 FBI agents opened fire on an AIM camp near Oglala, and were killed along with an AIM member. On the day of the shootout, the tribal council head was in Washington DC signing over 12% of the Reservation for uranium development.

Eventually Leonard Peltier was



Leonard Peltier

Throughout the 20th century, the US government has collaborated with private interests, particularly the energy conglomerates, to violate the treaties and gain access to the little bit of land left to the Natives. A central tactic was the creation of the tribal council system, which replaced traditional Native governments and gave an appearance of Native sovereignty, but was in fact controlled by the government. The tribal councils were and are opposed by most Natives, but are the only Native voice the government will recognize. Tribal councils are empowered to do nothing, except to sell or lease land.

Big Mountain in the Black Mesa region of the Navajo Reservation, is where right now hundreds of Dine families (Dine is the traditional Navajo name for themselves) face forced removal from their homes so that Peabody Coal can expand its Black Mesa operation, already the largest strip mine in the world. These people have been fighting relocation for 16 years.

In 1974 US Congress passed Public Law 93-531, which mandated the relocation of 10,000 Dine people. This was supposedly done to resolve a land dispute between Dine and Hopi, who have lived side by side for centuries. Thousands of Dine have already been relocated, and more than half of those are now homeless. Those who stay on the land endure hardships and harassment.

Peabody Coal has just made some big deals with Japan, so the US government wants to finish off the Native communities this summer, and harassment has increased since the Autumn of 1991.

The Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation, in South Dakota sits on top of the largest uranium deposits in the US. Uranium mining is opposed by traditional Lakota people, but the puppet tribal council was willing to let mining proceed. In 1973 the American Indian Movement occupied Wounded Knee to prevent mining. Hundreds of FBI, police and thugs conspired to murder and assault many Natives.

sentenced to 2 consecutive life terms for murder, although the state has since admitted that it used false evidence to obtain the convictions.

These 2 situations reflect a pattern whose outlines can be traced all over the continent. The Columbus Quincentennial is raising the issue of historical injustice and genocide, but these issues are focussed on the past. Our crocodile tears will not help Crazy Horse, and will do even less for his descendants.

Reality in Indian country today means almost total unemployment, forced sterilization, forced relocation, malnutrition and pollution. It means having the highest rate of infant mortality and the shortest life expectancy. All these things are acts of war.

We must not only recognize that these things occur, but also the degree to which US citizens profit from them.

We are calling for coordinated international days of action on the following dates:

June 26 - Anniversary of the Oglala shootout--Day of Action to Free Leonard Peltier.

July 6 - Anniversary of the relocation deadline at Big Mountain--Day of Action for Big Mountain

October 12 - Day of Action in honor of 500 Years of Ongoing Native Resistance in the Americas. -Support for Native Sovereignty, PO Box 2104, Seattle WA 98111.

The following resolutions were adopted by the 1991 IWW General Assembly:

3. "On the occasion of the Columbus Day Quincentennial, we endorse the sovereignty of all indigenous peoples and are in solidarity with groups opposing 500 years of Euro-centric colonialism."

4. "In addition to the exploitation of labor, industrial society creates wealth by exploiting the earth and non-human species. Just as the capitalists value the working class only for their labor, so they value the earth and non-human species only for their economic usefulness to humans. This

COLUMBUS STARTED THE NEW WORLD ORDER

zimya a. toms-trend

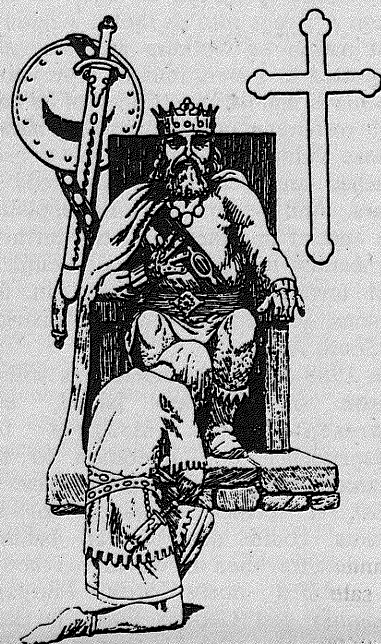
When it became evident that the Strontium 90 found in their children's milk was a deadly radioactive isotope and a direct result of nuclear testing, US women began a global movement forcing the nuclear powers to test their "toys" underground. The PTB (Partial Test Ban Treaty) of 1963 hasn't eliminated the high incidence of radiation-induced disease or death from uranium mining, nuclear testing, leaky nuclear waste dumps (compliments of peaceful atoms from nuclear power plants) or military waste.

Indigenous lands have been confiscated on a global scale for nuclear testing: the ex-Soviet government tests at Novaya Zemlya (a Nenet-Inuit island

February 1 at UN Plaza in New York. The route continues through Washington DC, Columbus, St. Louis, Leavenworth Kansas (where Leonard Peltier is imprisoned), Colorado Springs, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, and the Nevada test site.

European Peace Pilgrimage, a Netherlands idea, also began February 1, and will bypass many DOE nuclear facilities. The Pilgrimage commences in St. Mary's Georgia, to the Savannah River Nuclear Plant, Atlanta, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Amarillo (the Texas Peace Farm opposite the Pantex nuclear facility), Los Alamos, Las Vegas and the Nevada test site.

Both of these walks will be welcomed to Las Vegas October 2 for a weekend pow-wow hosted by the Western Shoshone National Council. After an October 5 action at the Las Vegas DOE, the walk continues to the Test Site for sweatlodges, non-violent training, workshops and preparations called *Healing Global Wounds: Indigenous*



in the Arctic) since the Kazakh site at Semipalatinsk was permanently closed in 1990; France tests on Mururoa (a Tahitian island); China tests at Lop Nor (Uighur ancestral lands), and the US and Britain test on Western Shoshone land (Newe Segobia) in southern Nevada.

Global Anti-Nuclear Alliance (GANA) was born in January 1991 when international peace activists failed to convince the US and Britain to vote for a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban, which in effect would have enacted the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty before it expires in 1995. The Cold War was over, Americans awaited the peace dividend and the end of global nuclear weapons testing. Instead, the US decided to continue nuclear testing "well into the 21st century."

In honor of the Quincentennial, 3 groups are walking across the US, portraying the aftermath of Columbus' "discovery" of the New World: 500 years of genocide of indigenous peoples including land confiscation, broken treaties and ecological problems including the deadliest one: nuclear weapons testing. The misnamed Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the military-industrial complex have allowed nuclear testing and the nuclear power industry total environmental *laissez-faire*.

The Walk Across America idea originated in Belgium and began

Forum and Ceremony. The concert, cultural event and direct action end on Indigenous Peoples' Day, Monday October 12. For information call 1-800-466-WALK. For pow-wow info call the Western Shoshone National Council at (702)863-0227.

The Spiritual Walk 1992 began with a sunrise ceremony in San Francisco January 1, and ends October 12 in Washington DC. Led by Native Americans and Japanese Buddhists walking through Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Leavenworth Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Wounded Knee and Pine Ridge South Dakota, Minneapolis, Chicago, Indianapolis, Columbus, Pittsburgh, NYC and Washington DC. People are invited to join the walk along the way.

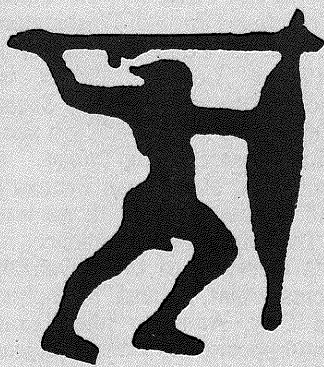
To locate the whereabouts of the Spirit Walkers, a Voice-Mail exists at (415)541-5032. The walk runs 5,400 miles through 17 native Nations. They request 1) organizing accommodations on their route, 2) organize visits to schools, churches and other groups, 3) media coverage, 4) gatherings, prayer vigils and 5) organize walkers, even if only for one or two days. To coordinate your organizing activities, contact: Alliance of Atomic Veterans (602) 768-6623; Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (913) 842-5774; American Indian Movement (612) 724-3129.

Our Mother In Crisis: Women of the Land Speak Out is a women's speaking tour of the Southwest, sponsored by American Peace Test (APT) of Las Vegas. This tour began April 1 in San Francisco and will end in Austin Texas May 14. Women must not only take a stand but create a way out of the mess created by the nuclear industry. Speakers include Pauline Estevez of the Western Shoshone Nation, Bayan Orumbaeva of Kazakhstan, and Marguerite Tetuanui from Tahiti. To find out where they're speaking call APT at (702)386-9834.

Together as global activists, we must honor human rights, the Earth and the end of nuclear tyranny, as we stride into the 21st century in our quest for peace and justice.

has created such an imbalance that the life support systems of the earth are on the verge of collapse. The working class bears the brunt of this degradation by being forced to produce, consume, and live in the toxic environment created by this abuse. Human society must recognize that all beings have a right to exist for their own sake, and that humans must learn to live in balance with the rest of nature. This will only be accomplished when the working class takes control of human production and redirects it to the long-term benefit of all rather than the short-term profit of a few."

ANGER IN AZANIA



Harare, Zimbabwe: "I've been here for about 3 months, talking to people on the streets and in the villages, meeting with reps from liberation movements and reading all the progressive reports. Major things are happening throughout southern Africa right now, and none of it good. Western imperialism and political and economic elites have turned virtually the whole region into IMF states, and the governments go on about "development" and "foreign investments" while the people drift closer and closer to starvation. There is some hope for Mozambique and Angola --still trying to keep some economic independence and contact with the people, but having a hard time keeping alive with current international trends. To make matters worse, all southern Africa is suffering the worst drought in living memory."

Prospects For South Africa

Special for *Industrial Worker*

by Brian Green
Travelling Wobbly News Service

South Africa stands at the crossroads, but occupied Azania is still held in chains beneath this shallow veneer of freedom. South Africa is a white political military economic elite, that now seems prepared to allow a few token Africans into its ranks. Azania is that nation of workers and students, subjected to generations of repression; Azania is that nation stripped of its land and resources; Azania is that nation whose culture and dignity have been crushed and denied for hundreds of years. And while the world applauds the end of apartheid and the birth of democracy in South Africa, Azania is still tortured and brutalized in the prisons, streets, and business districts of South Africa.

In 1988 Nelson Mandela was still in prison on Robben Island, and represented the struggle for independence and liberation to the Azanian people. With his release in 1990, it seemed liberation for all Azania could not be far behind. Mandela travelled the world, but though he rubbed noses with Margaret Thatcher and George Bush, he kept close ties also with Moammar Gaddafi and Fidel Castro, and spoke of land reform, re-distribution of wealth, and both political and economic freedom for the people of his country. Today the picture is very different.

Towards the end of 1991 we saw the opening of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), which brought together the ruling white National Party of F.W. DeKlerk, Mandela's African National Congress, and the other two major liberation movements, the Pan-Africanist Congress and the Azanian People's Organization (AZAPO), as well as several smaller organizations that really have no major following and so will have no real impact on the future of S.A. Soon after the talks opened,

however, AZAPO was expelled after demanding that white participants leave the racist ruling Party before participating in the planning of a non-racist future.

With the expulsion of AZAPO, the PAC leadership was pressured by its grass roots membership to also leave the talks, to show solidarity with AZAPO, to protest the purely political nature of the talks (economic liberation-the question of land distribution is not included among the talks at CODESA).

The PAC asked the ANC to join their walkout, and form a united front of all liberation movements. The ANC refused, encouraging the PAC to re-enter the talks, which it declined to do. The withdrawal of PAC and the expulsion of AZAPO meant that CODESA was reduced to negotiation between the National Party and the ANC. The other involved groups, including Gatsha Buthelezi's Inkatha movement which represents conservative, pro-bantustan (reservation) Africans, really do not play a major role as their support among the Azanian people is very limited.

1992 began with the ANC and National Party holding negotiations for the transfer of political power in S.A., but completely ignoring the economic empowerment of Azania. In February, the ANC announced that its policy of nationalization of major industries and major re-distribution of wealth was being withdrawn as, they said, the concerns of the international business community could not be ignored.

With DeKlerk's "Yes on Reform" vote in March (a vote open only to white South Africans), CODESA has entered a new stage, and the world cheers the victory of democracy in South Africa.

But these facts remain: CODESA really involves only the ANC and the ruling National Party, and thus ignores a large percentage of the Azanian population, as represented by PAC and AZAPO; CODESA does not contain any discussion of economic change,

which is a key part of any real liberation for Azania; the ANC has effectively removed economic independence and transformation from its platform.

What is the attitude of the Azanian people to all this? Other than those actively involved in ANC leadership, there are very few people in southern Africa who have a good word to say about CODESA. This is true not only in Azania, but throughout the frontline states, who have always been great supporters of the ANC. At best CODESA is seen as too much of a compromise, and compared to the Lancaster House Conference that won Zimbabwe's political independence in 1980; this Conference gave whites a reserved percentage of seats in parliament, and forced the emerging government to accept terms that effectively blocked meaningful economic change. Most people see CODESA as leading South Africa in the same direction. At worst, there are some who go so far as to label Mandela and the ANC leadership "sellouts," sacrificing the needs of the people for their own power. Though still a minority, the number of people who hold this view reflects a major change from only 3 years ago, when Mandela was hailed as a hero throughout southern Africa and few would have openly renounced him.

In either case, it is likely that the ANC and National Party will continue negotiations, leading to an interim government with the ANC playing the major role. Political independence seems inevitable; but economic transformation, an essential part of Azania's liberation, and of peace and stability for all of southern Africa, will most likely be left behind, leaving the vast majority of Azanian people still enslaved in poverty under the economic - thus the effective -- domination of a white minority.

ON BUILDING INDUSTRIAL UNIONS

Internationally we might consider that there are two forms of union that can be built, in immediate practical terms, omitting the 'unionised hamburger stall' idea.

1) where there is an authentic unionised framework to build on, e.g. the (Swedish) SAC or (Spanish) CNT.

2) where the workers are heavily unionised as in the British TUC.

There is no point in attacking the unions, as these are often (as in Great Britain) already under threat by the State. The unions did have a lot of power and the leadership abused it, but that era has gone. Now the workers have no power through the unions. They need to organize.

The worst union is better than the best political party.

Where there is no union (e.g. in Great Britain the motor cycle couriers were unorganised, until an independent union was built). One could do the same in other 'cowboy' industries e.g. catering.

You couldn't build an industrial union structure in long-unionised industries, nor is there any need. There is in Great Britain an industrial structure in the shop stewards movement, non-political, but cutting across industry, a horizontal structure in a vertically organized TU movement.

It could be done in another complementary structure taken from French syndicalism and the IWW, namely the formation of WORKERS CLUBS -- Union halls -- (French) labour exchanges or hiring halls -- where all trades and none meet. Under whatever name, the union hall combines a social basis, e.g. legal advice (as in Great Britain), education (as in Spain), women's centers, youth activities (as in Italy), strike support and so on. If there are a few of these in one industry factory they are the nucleus of workers councils in that factory.

I think this is the basis of an industrial union structure comprising all sections of interests relevant to us.

It does not have to be against reformist trade unionism, as necessary in the past (though probably the politicians will want to smash it and it will become opposed but will not be seen as a split...).

This can be done nationally, but would really take off if done internationally, as we would start off from strength rather than weakness. True, it's not relevant to some countries.

(Answer to most frequently asked question: The workers club does not have to be on premises one owns, if one has to rent, or vary from place to place, so long as it exists is the main thing). - London, AM

cont. from page 5

SOUTH ASIA Solidarity

Representatives of trade unions from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India meeting in New Delhi formed a South Asian coordination committee to work together on common issues. The unions represent factory workers in 8 transnational corporations (TNCs) -- Unilever, Lipton, Siemens, Reckitt and Coleman, Parke Davis, Pfizer, SKF and Philips.

The announced strategy is to organize simultaneous "sympathy strikes" in support of workers in TNC subsidiaries and to fight for uniform working conditions throughout the region.

There will also be coordinated opposition to "structural adjustment measures" demanded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The unions will also involve non-TNC unions in building international solidarity through regular exchange visits of worker leaders and activists, meetings, and simultaneous support actions.

Like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan before it, India is dumping state-owned enterprises and opening previously closed areas to private and foreign investors. Saiful Haq of the Bangladesh Agricultural Labor Union said, "The privatization policy of the

government has clearly initiated a mechanism through which a redistribution of incomes in favor of the rich is being effected."

Sri Lankan unions are protesting government plans to hand over to private managers, including TNCs, state-owned tea and rubber plantations which employ some 400,000 people.

Recently in Pakistan and Bangladesh, Unilever workers supported their co-workers in Indian factories. The Sri Lankan Commercial and Industrial Worker's Union gave large quantities of tea to Unilever workers in Punjab. The tea was sold to raise funds for the striking workers.

The following resolutions were adopted by the 1991 IWW General Assembly:

2. "While the IWW gives its full support to international cooperation between workers, the IWW declares its opposition to the Free Trade Agreements between the governments of Canada, the United States, and Mexico. These agreements have highlighted the inequalities that exist among workers internationally, and therefore we find that our best response is to organize workers internationally. We support direct action taken by workers in opposition to these agreements."

WILL "FREE" TRADE SHIFT JOBS TO COUNTRIES THAT BAN UNIONS?

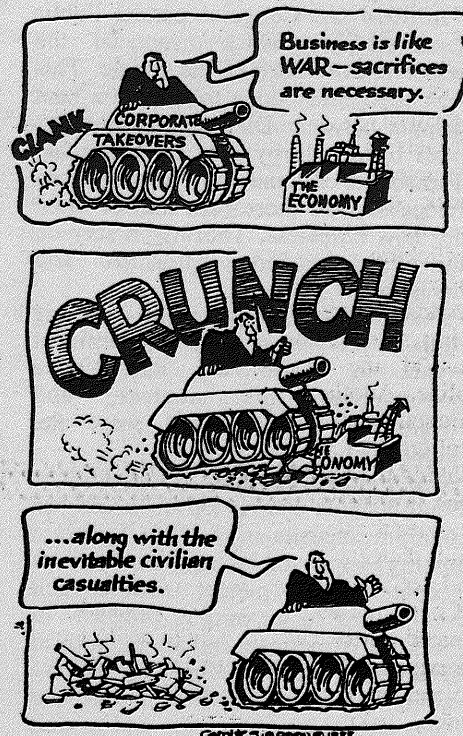
European petrochemicals production could move to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) under a free trade agreement being negotiated with the European Community (EC). Similar job transfers might well take place from petrochemical producers in other parts of the world if the current GATT Uruguay Round is successful, according to the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers Unions (ICEF).

Expansion of the already well-developed GCC petrochemical industry would mean recruitment of European technical advisers to work in the Gulf. Production workers, on the other hand, would be drawn mainly from Asia, "because a European worker, compared to the labour we have from the Far East, would be an expensive item." In the Gulf states, unionism is either tightly controlled or is actually illegal. Saudi authorities have arrested (and, according to some accounts, executed) workers who tried to organize in the oil and petrochemical industries.

An EC-GCC free trade agreement could cost 75,000 petrochemical jobs in Europe. European Commission negotiators have a mandate to include a human rights clause in trade

agreements, and this could also cover trade union rights, but it is receiving low priority in the current talks.

cont. on page 13



Victims of Patriarchy

Sex Dancers Robbed by Police Tax

Cherry has worked as an exotic dancer for 10 years. On Monday when she showed up for work, city inspectors were waiting.

"Just smile and be nice," said the club owners. All 15 dancers were herded through the line-up. Names, social insurance numbers and birthdates were taken from the women. Each was issued a "courtesy warning" which gave them 48 hours to apply for a license to work, or else face criminal charges.

Those with a previous conviction, or warrants, or whose companions had criminal records, were so scared they stopped coming to work.

Cherry: "I've never had any problems with the law. No arrests, nothing. I pay my taxes like everybody else. I was intimidated into cooperating with this new tax. All the dancers are asking why the city wants to license us, because we know the city is always trying to get rid of us. Bartenders don't have to be licensed. Waitresses, bouncers, disk jockeys and cashiers don't have to get a license. Why us? What about our human rights?"

The campaign of city authorities is not moral, but cosmetic. The city wants to force the clubs away from residential and tourist areas, into industrial areas, where they won't be so noticeable, and where dancers will be at greater risk of assault going to and coming from work.

Cherry went to the city license office, to apply for her "Adult Entertainment Attendant License". She paid \$30 to the city, then had to pay another \$21.40 on a separate cheque - they wouldn't accept cash - made out to the Ottawa Police.

Having paid \$51.40 in this obviously makeshift manner, Cherry asked the city desk worker what was the reason for the new fees. He laughed and said, "The city needs money - to pay for Tulips!" Indeed, city council has been under pressure to balance the budget, and the \$68 million (and growing) police budget is one part council can't touch. Police are getting 5% salary budget increase this year, and 35 new luxury cars. And in spite of cutting jobs and services such as street sweeping, the city is granting \$39,000 to the Tulip Festival.

Cherry says there are about 150 women in Ottawa who work as exotic dancers. If every one pays the application fee, the city has just made \$4500, and the police have taken \$2210 out of the hard-earned pay of this one small group of workers.

Cherry now has to wait three weeks before being told by the Chief of Police whether she will be allowed a license. If her application is approved, she will have to buy the license for \$120. Should her application be rejected, she'll forfeit the \$51.40.

If the city/police sell 150 licenses, the two authorities will be able to split another \$18,000. In all the amount extorted from the 150 women will total \$24,710. Not a bad scam when you consider it was just dreamed up out of the "blue".

A Police spokesperson said the licenses will be granted on the basis of "good character". Police directed *Industrial Worker's* inquiries to city officials, who said the applicants "good character" would be determined by a check of criminal records for four specific crimes: prostitution, drug trafficking, procuring, and indecent exposure.

Asked why the license policy was being started, the city official said it was at the recommendation of the police. Another city official said that Council was concerned at the proliferation of strip clubs, and were looking for a way to curb them. At that time Police Dept recommended the licenses for dancers as a way of making sure dancers were of good character and not under age.

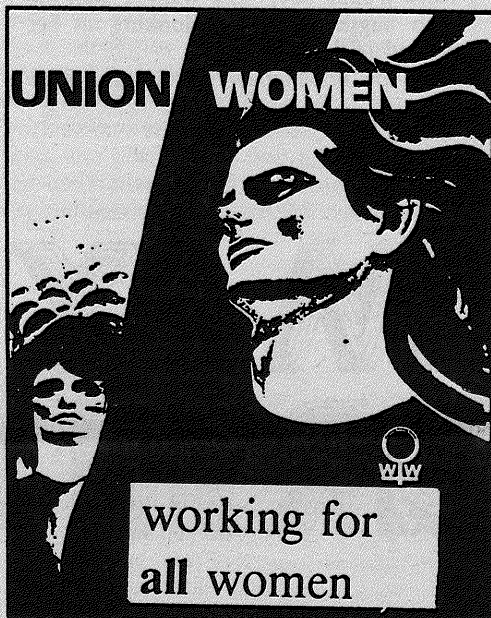
Cherry notes that she has personally danced on the table for Chief of Police Flanagan. She says male uniform policemen come every shift into the clubs, making the working conditions very tense. Many policemen display

obvious disrespect for the dancers, but they always stand there and watch the performance. If the dancers are the least bit unfriendly, policemen intimidate them.

Cherry has danced for many high-level politicians and officials, who give her tips and tell her she's beautiful. But when she passes the same men-in-suits on the street, they refuse to notice her, and she has overheard some talking in misogynist language about dancers, calling them "sluts".

"Everybody thinks we make \$200 a day, but those days are few and far between," says Cherry. "I've walked out of a place on Saturday afternoon with \$5. The recession is hurting us, too, because all the customers are spending less." She says \$30-\$50 a shift is about average, from which dancers must pay the DJ and the bartender. Then they have to buy clothes and costumes, pay for transportation, and full price for food and drinks.

Cherry was glad to hear of IWW Sex Trade Workers Industrial Union No. 890, but said conditions make organizing very difficult. The trade is very fragmented, and with the advent of table dancing the women never have a chance to talk to each other. They're



either on stage or on the floor, where they must compete for tips. Dancers range from innocent youngsters to "professional peelers".

Five women dancers had been charged for not having a license application receipt, as of March 4.

Industrial Worker poses the question: Why are dancers required to have "good character", but not secretaries or phone solicitors? How about grocery bag boys or insurance salesmen? Is there something about turning men on sexually that requires special virtue?

It would appear these workers are being robbed for the simple reason that they are women without power. Cherry doesn't know of any women's rights groups who have ever offered support to sex dancers. The core of this abuse is the double standard of society, which refuses to admit that sex workers are human beings, while at the same time paying an attractive wage for their services.

RUSSIA LABOR NEWS

cont. from page 12

THE UKRAINE: The Ukrainian Government has transferred Social Security funds, formerly administered by the Communist-dominated unions to the reorganized Federation of Independent Trade Unions of the Ukraine. Members of independent unions are thus excluded from social security benefits. The new statute also gives the right to use the money for commercial projects. The Solidarity Trade Unions of the Ukraine, the All-Ukrainian Solidarity Association of Workers and the Independent Miners' Trade Union of the Ukraine have protested, demanding the creation of independent social security funds for each union.

A Mind of Her Own

At this point in time some men still fall back on attempting to control women by discrediting their ideas and accomplishments. What follows are a few of the stereotypes men often put women into when their dominance is challenged.

1. The Poor Misguided Soul

When discussing any issue, a woman may be labelled "misguided" for not agreeing with the ideas expressed by a man. If that woman happens to agree with a position put forth by another man, she has certainly been wrongly influenced by that person's ideas, and can surely be convinced to change her position once she has been shown her error in judgement.

2. The Dragon Lady

Any woman who aggressively promotes her own ideas and stands by them may be referred to in this manner. Although this type of behavior is considered appropriate for men, women with this propensity are often considered to be out of control. Men may be unwilling to work with these women because they shock the very foundation of patriarchy.

3. The Irrational One

When unable to come up with a solid reason to discredit a woman, men tend to fall back on this time honored response. The premise is faulty thought process, that women are unable to clearly understand the facts and use them to come to a logical conclusion that is acceptable to the men. When a woman is called irrational, the statement is often left on its own with no supporting evidence.

4. The Sex Object

When a man reaches the upper echelons of the working world, he is looked upon with admiration for all the work he has

accomplished. When a woman reaches the same position, men will often spread rumors of advances at work due to sexual favors. The basis of this theory is that women can't achieve success on skills and experience alone.

5. The Child

When a woman refuses to change her position on an issue, she is said to be childish. It makes no difference how well she may argue her point, or how poorly the man may argue his. The response is that the woman is unable to admit she is wrong and generally treated in a patronizing manner for being so stubborn.

6. The Emotional Rag

This term is usually pulled out during heated discussions. When a woman passionately argues her point, she is called "overly emotional" and therefore incapable of discussing fact. A woman is usually labelled emotional for becoming angry or for crying. Men will often cut off discussions at this point.

These are but a few of the methods men have used to discredit women in order to reaffirm their dominance. Even those men who consider themselves progressive may slip back into these habits if they feel threatened, wronged, or unheard. It is unfortunate that women must appear inferior in order for some men to feel accomplished, and it's disgraceful for society to support such backward thinking through silence and compliance. Until individuals are willing to acknowledge such actions as hateful and unproductive, society's attitude as a whole will not change. The next time you witness sexism firsthand, take a step forward and call it what it is. --X334060

Grabbers Beware!



Women of German Trade Unions

SOCIAL COMPACT: An agreement between the government of Moscow and the Moscow federation of Trade Unions was concluded on January 24th. According to the document signed by Y. Luzhkov on behalf of the government and M. Shmakov on behalf of 39 Trade Union organizations of Moscow the government has to take measures to secure employment, living standards and guarantee social security. Measures on providing medical care, on social security in the fields of culture, sport and ecology are provided. The Government will be obliged to calculate and publish a minimal personal consumption budget and to provide indexation of salaries. If these conditions are guaranteed the federation will abstain from strikes for the duration of the agreement.

WORKERS SUFFER: Workers of the Kreyngolskaya textile factory and other enterprises as well as the city Trade Unions ask the Parliament and the Council of Ministers of the Republic to reinstate economic ties with Russia and other republics of the Commonwealth. Now because of cuts in the deliveries of raw materials many enterprises have to stop, and others send their workers on unpaid or partially paid leave.

cont. on page 16

The following resolutions were adopted by the 1991 IWW General Assembly:

1. "The 1991 IWW General Assembly reaffirms the IWW's opposition to all forms of human oppression, including but not necessarily limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, creed, age, physical ability or sexual orientation.

Kroger Workers Strike!

7,000 grocery clerks and 800 meat cutters from the Kroger Co. in southeastern Michigan went on strike midnight April 13th. Kroger is the largest supermarket chain in Michigan and the US. The workers are members of 2 locals of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Kroger has been cited by the National Labor Relations Board for bargaining in bad faith with Local 539. The workers have not had an hourly wage increase in over 10 years. Faced with the busting of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers union by Ronald Reagan, and the round of Union concessions begun by the United Auto Workers in the early '80s, Kroger workers submitted to a wage freeze and a 2-tiered wage scale following a 2-month lockout in 1984. Workers hired since then earn between \$4.50 and \$9 per hour.

Kroger used the lockout to consolidate its operations, permanently closing all its stores in Detroit and selling others and selling its area distribution warehouse to a company called Foodland. Foodland still distributes groceries to the Kroger stores. Kroger workers with high seniority were offered a one-time buyout of approximately \$5,000. Those who accepted were replaced with a low paid and largely part-time work force with few benefits. Many of those who remained had to transfer from closed stores in their home communities to other locations requiring 1 hour commutes to keep jobs with top pay rates of \$11.32 per hour for those in the few department manager positions, \$1 per hour less for top seniority clerks. The clerks have been without a contract since January 3rd of this year. Kroger's "final offer" is a \$1.50 per hour raise over the next few years in exchange for: the right to replace more full-time jobs with part-time jobs at substandard wages and benefits; reduction of personal days, including sick days; reduction of overtime and vacation benefits; the right to unilaterally transfer work to non-union employees; a wage freeze for workers with less seniority; and the elimination of minimum bonuses.

The strikers are demanding the \$1.50 per hour raise over the next 2 years and no concessions. They feel their demands are justified based on 1991 reported Kroger earnings of \$80 million on sales of over \$21 billion.

In the face of such profitability the company was not willing to suffer the losses of another lockout. Two days before the strike vote, the company ran full page ads for temporary scabs at hourly rates of up to \$8.37 per hour. With Michigan unemployment at over 9% even by notoriously under-reported government standards, more than 1,000 people applied for the scab jobs. Some told reporters stories of years of lay-off, thousands of dollars of medical bills, and bankruptcy. Other tales were less poignant: workers with jobs looking for a little added income from scabbing part-time. In one instance 2 scabs quit work half way through their first shift, complaining of intolerable working conditions.

Kroger strikers took to the picket lines in force and in good spirits. The early days of the strike found up to 20 pickets at most stores. In Ann Arbor, customers stopped by to cheer the workers on, honk in support, and provide coffee and donuts for the pickets. Only a trickle of scab shoppers could be found in the Kroger stores while nearby competitors reported increased sales averaging 30%. Detroit television reporters speculated that even those shoppers not sympathetic to unions found it uncomfortable to cross the lines of workers they spoke to on a regular basis.

The situation has been fairly calm. A few cars belonging to scab workers and shoppers have had their tires slashed, windows soaped, and paint scratched. One picket captain was assaulted when she asked a customer if he intended to scab. She sustained no physical injury. Power failed for 9 hours at one Kroger store.

Deliveries are down. Teamsters are

technically honoring the lines, but are dropping off loads at locations near the stores. Supervisors then arrive to drive the trucks across the lines. But in one instance reported by a Detroit TV station, a truck waited six hours for the arrival of the supervisor. When the supervisor finally did arrive he called back to the warehouse for another driver, stating he was "too nervous" to cross the line. The delivery wasn't made.

The resolution of the strike could be determined by one of two factors. Kroger seemed to be gambling or customer loyalty. They have lost that gamble for now. In the week before Easter and Passover they face significant sales losses, and may face permanent losses as some customers stay with the competitors they are presently patronizing. Operating costs remain near normal levels due to the decision to remain open with scab labor. Kroger may seek a compromise settlement to cut its losses. But sales at the affected stores represent only 5% of the company's total sales. Kroger may be willing to take the losses to bust the union they seriously weakened 9 years ago. Some strikers expressed optimism that the strike would be brief, but most seemed prepared for the long haul.

WOBBLES SUPPORT KROGER WORKERS

On the first day of the Kroger strike, members of the Industrial Workers of the World from Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti showed up to support Kroger workers at 3 stores in the Ann Arbor area.

While the Wobblies waited for their whole contingent to arrive at the Maider Lane store, a woman drove up in tending to shop. She was apologetic, but said she needed to get fruit for a hospitalized friend. She was from out of town and didn't know the locations of any other stores. She accepted the offer of one of the Wobblies to ride with her to another store. A later story in the Ann Arbor News mentioned another woman who always shopped at the Maider Lane store. She didn't have transportation to any other store. One of the strikers gave her a ride, helped her shop, took her home, and refused payment for the service. The woman said she wouldn't be shopping at Kroger for the duration of the strike.

Supporters of the union trickled in to the stores on Maider Lane, South Industrial, and Washtenaw in Ann Arbor. They filled their carts, taking a few items from both sides of each aisle. One described the experience as a fantasy shopping spree as he loaded his cart with all the goodies he couldn't normally afford.

Some carts were left in the aisles to be discovered later. Others were wheeled to the checkout stands to be rung up by the inexperienced scab cashiers. At the store on Maider Lane, some of the packages in one shopper's order were found to be broken open, causing powdered sugar to spill over the conveyor belt and bringing effusive apologies for the inconvenience from the flustered cashier. When the order had been rung up the customer discovered she had left her purse in her car and went to get it, never to return.

The next customer was engaged in conversation by the store manager who was bagging the groceries. The manager commented that he had seen the strikers bending the customer's ear for quite a while in the parking lot. The customer stated that he had stopped to find out what the issues were. "I'm sympathetic, but..." and shrugged his shoulders as the order continued to be rung up. The manager laughed. A minute later the Wobbly said "Actually, I think I'm too sympathetic to shop here. Have a nice day," and walked out. The manager had finally figured out what was going on and confronted another shopper in the store demanding identification because there had been "a little trouble at the checkout stands with some customers." When the shopper refused to produce i.d., the manager told him he

would have to leave. His cart nearly full, he happily left the store.

Apparently the manager had phoned around to warn managers at other stores of what they might expect. Some of the Wobblies were met with angry stares from the manager at the South Industrial store. But none met with any interference as they went on their rounds. The Wobs speculated that while some of them may have fit phoned descriptions, the manager didn't want to risk mistakenly antagonizing any "legitimate" scab customer.

This time their activities were coordinated so all arrived at the registers together. Only the fast lane was open, being run again by a scab cashier. The only union scab encountered in any of the stores was bagging. She invited one of the shoppers into the lane where an order for \$209 plus change was rung up. 2 other lanes were opened and 3 such orders were completed almost simultaneously while a few scab customers waited with a handful of items. When the cashier in the fast lane asked the Wobbly if he would be paying in cash, he replied "You know, I really can't bring myself to shop in a store which is trying to bust a union. Have a nice day," and walked past the scab bagger who was looking at her wasted labor in disgust.

At the Washtenaw store, scabs were

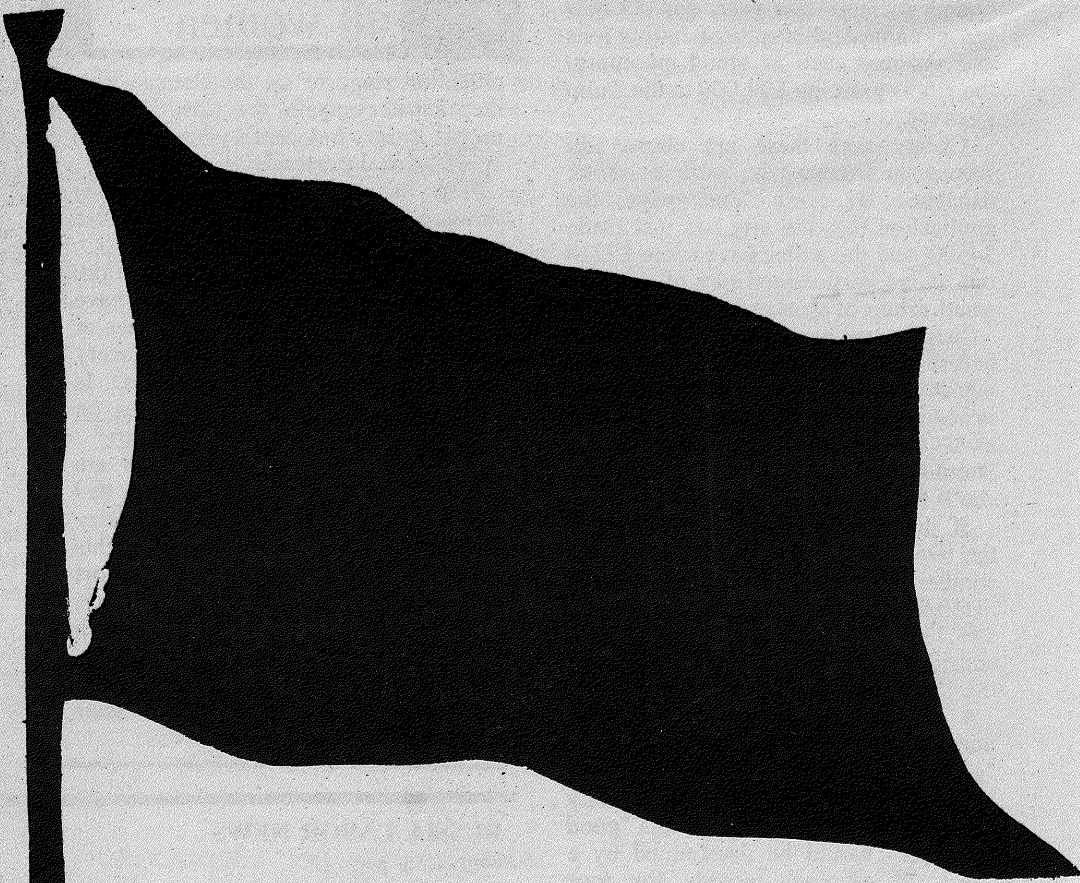
talking about "a roving band of troublemakers going from store to store". A Wobbly had her order rung up and said she figured she had gotten as much as she usually did and that after the strike she would be back to get that much again, and strolled out. The Wobblies leaving the store were greeted with cheers, applause, and thanks from the picketers.

Some of the local Wobblies are currently unemployed as a result of the recent closure of the People's Warehouse in Ann Arbor, which had been an IWW shop. They walked the picket line with signs reading: "I'm unemployed. I'm union. I'd starve before I'd scab!"; "Replacement workers? A scab by any other name still smells."; and "Labor dispute in progress. Park and shop here at your own peril!"

One of the strikers wanted to express her appreciation by making a donation to the IWW. She was advised that she could repay their support by passing it on, by stopping to support other workers she saw on strike. As the Wobblies left singing a chorus of "Solidarity Forever," the cheers and applause rose again.

Some of the Wobblies stated that they had felt nervous about the support activities beforehand. All said they were exhilarated by the results. Further activities are in the planning stage. — Fred Chase

MAY DAY GREETINGS



THE ORIGIN OF MAYDAY

Haymarket Martyrs Albert Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Louis Lingg, Oscar Neebe, Michael Schwab & Samuel Fielden were tried in Chicago on a charge of conspiracy after a bomb was thrown at the police during a labor rally at Haymarket Square. The 1st four mentioned were executed November 11, 1887. Lingg committed suicide the day before he, too, was to be hung. The sentences of the other four were commuted after the trial was proved unjust. The bomb-thrower was never definitely identified. The international holiday of May Day, May 1, was started to commemorate the Anarchist victims, and has become a rallying date for workers in every country. Albert Parsons' widow, Lucy Parsons, was one of the founders of the IWW.

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Wherehouse Reflections

People's Wherehouse was shut down by the underhanded tactics of bosses in co-op clothing.

I experienced similar things when I worked at a non-profit, progressive type organization (See also Julia Goode's *Non-Profit Hypocrisy* article in the January 1992 IW). A friend and fellow Wobbly helped save my sanity and kept me fighting, reminding me that the right-wingers who dominated the board of that organization were collaborating scumbags. No different than scumbag foremen on the factory floor. They were scabs and collaborators, and they needed to be dealt with accordingly. A scab is a scab is a scab, he said. And: if you don't fight you don't win. The fight is the same fight.

We did fight back, members and staff working together, and though it got messy it was necessary, and we pretty much won.

Even in that organization, which doesn't take government money and prides itself on being quite radical, people got into positions of influence and policy setting who were so lacking in class consciousness that they withheld wages from staff to try and get their way (they failed). They refused to stand up for organizers attacked while organizing. Compromising with people like that or even hoping for common ground simply does no good. The Wherehouse workers learned this too.

The year after I left, the new board's check signer held up payroll to manipulate his way politically. A tactic that had been one of a series of outrages by a clique the membership eventually threw out of power slipped over to at least one of the "new good guys" as a "normal" operating procedure. Generally, things have improved there because class conscious members and staff got together -- and that's important to emphasize -- and took a tough stand. Compromise was not an alternative.

Maybe the battle for People's Wherehouse was lost when the original

collective work process devolved, or maybe when the radicals in the membership and staff didn't eliminate management during a time of upsurge...maybe it was lost in the expansion of sales (and rise of management). Or maybe the elusive victory was never possible.

Recently I spoke to a historian who complained that today's Wobblies don't know enough about their own history.

But today's active revolutionary IWW members do draw on movement history, in getting a sense of what to do now. It's not just Wobbly history, and not with an academic eye. The historian couldn't drag information about 'Dead Wob A' from 'Live Wob B.' What the historian could have learned about are the current struggles -- like the actions of shop floor radicals at People's Wherehouse or the worker-environment coalition builders in Mendocino County. The real Joe Hill, who died soon after the myth was born, wrote: "Forget me and march right on to emancipation."

If historians don't look at what's right in front of their faces, and if Wobblies don't memorize biographies, it is still the active Wobblies who have a better balance of past and present. We do draw on Joe Hill. The Wherehouse and Mendocino Wobblies are inheritors of the early IWW anarchists. But that's not because they read the '08 convention minutes -- it's because of political similarities. It's because of how we act today, not because we've studied the past -- though there is much we can learn from the centuries-long struggle for liberation from bosses of all kinds).

The large number of Wobblies who are singer/songwriters today, using cultural work as an organizing tool, are inheritors of a tradition that includes Joe Hill, Woody Guthrie, Bernice Johnson Reagon and Billy Bragg among others. For an example, check out Darryl Cherney's new tape *Timber* which I see is available from the IWW mail order folks. You'll understand



why Darryl got excited when -- finally taking a break from performing and organizing -- he read a biography of Joe Hill. But Darryl didn't have to know Hill's life story to act in the tradition, to know that music is an organizing tool.

What the historian does not understand is that to act in the no-compromise spirit of the early Wobblies doesn't mean we have to know their biographies. Rather than get upset because a member didn't know a dead guy's life story, he'd have done himself (and his histories) a better service by learning from her about living Wobblies who act in the spirit and desire of the early Wobs.

Yeah, the IWW is still here! But not to keep the flame -- we're here to spread the sparks, and to dance on to emancipation! - Martin St. John

Q. Why did the boss cross the road?
A. To fire the chicken.

Q. Why did the Trade Union officer cross the road?
A. He thought it was a picket line.

Q. Why didn't the liberal cross the road?
A. The traffic light was broken.

cont. from page 13

RUSSIA

RUSSIAN WORKERS CONTINUE FIGHTING

The following are excerpted from the KAS-KOR Labor Digest, produced by independent unionists and anarcho-syndicalists in Moscow:

A MONTH OF ANXIETY: The Russian Government succeeded in coming to an agreement with the Vorkuta miners, but immediately the wave of indignation from employees of state-financed enterprises whose wages are fixed at a significantly lower level compelled Vice-Premier Burbulis to urgently fly to Vorkuta. The government works as a fire-brigade, using the principal of "divide and rule" by raising wages to some categories of workers and not changing the situation of others, thus splitting the workers' movement.

Industrial output is decreasing (by 17% as compared to the beginning of the year). Agricultural production decreased in January this year by more than 30% as compared to January 1991, and prices are on the rise. All this allows the orthodox communist and national-"patriotic" opposition to strengthen their position, hiding their former disagreements for the sake of appearances. It has reached such a point that general Rutsikoy, the hero of the day for suppressing the putsch, and now the oppositionist Vice-President, declared that the putschists should be freed. Anything which might contribute to the fall of Yeltsin's government is considered fair game.

Attempts to play the workers' movement card in the political game are continuing. For example, the "patriotic" Russian People's Union is trying to influence the Urals social-political association "Rabochiy" (The Worker). The same purpose is pursued by organizing quite a number of communist and "patriotic" parties with "workers" labels. Political groupings, not only in Russia but in other republics as well, are using mass dissatisfaction to their political ends.

PREAMBLE of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Join the IWW

No Bureaucrats—Aside from the modestly paid General Secretary-Treasurer and the office worker who staff our General Administration, the IWW has no paid officers. The General Executive Board is elected annually by the entire membership, and its job is to oversee the running of union affairs, not to set policy. All officers may be recalled at any time by referendum.

Real Democracy—All policy decisions are made by the members themselves by referendum. All branches maintain full autonomy on matters within their jurisdiction. Job branches (IWW groups composed of workers at a single job-site) set their own demands and strategies in negotiations, free of meddling internationals or sell-out business agents.

Low Dues—Our dues are structured on a sliding scale basis. Unemployed and low-income workers pay \$3 a month; those making between \$800 and \$1,700 per month pay \$9; and members making more than \$1,700 per month pay \$12 monthly dues. Initiation fees equal one month's dues, so a low-income worker can join for as little as \$6.

To Join—Fill out the questions below and mail this form with your check or money order to IWW, 1095 Market Street Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94103.

- ☐ I affirm that I am a common worker without direct power to hire and fire.
☐ I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.
☐ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____

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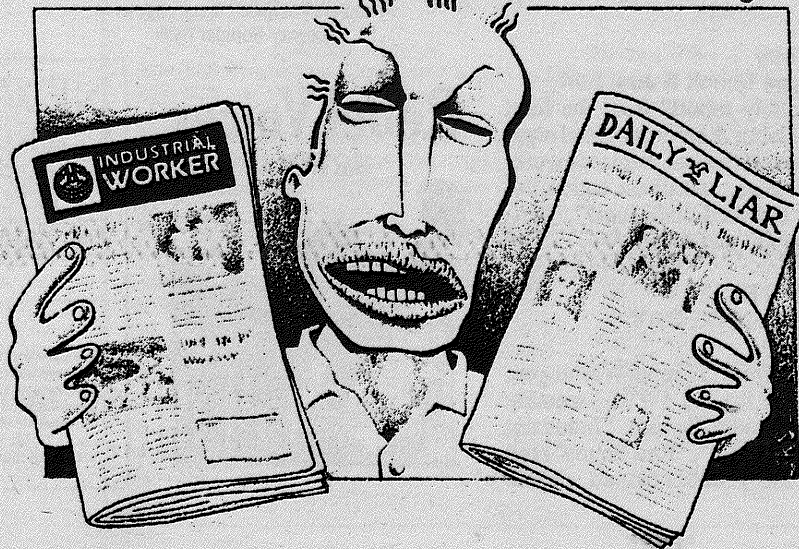
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